



Linking the Moro People with the rest of the World

THE BANGSAMORO JOURNAL

A Quarterly Publication of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society

Cotabato City, Philippines

October 2008

MOA-AD: A living document!

**The Bangsamoro History
& the Struggle for Self-determination**

A War Against the Bangsamoro?

The MOA - AD

**Upholding MOA -AD's Supremacy
Over the Constitution**

STOP THE WAR

**Stop
Killing
INNOCENT
Civilians!**

OUR COVER



Indiscriminately bombed, fired at, and caught in the crossfire between the military and so-called Lawless MILF Groups (LMG), the Bangsamoro civilians are fleeing again since August 2008 in one of the worst human displacement (more than 600,000 affected persons) in the history of Mindanao war. But while most of the Christian settler evacuees in the provinces of Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato have already returned back to their homes, the Bangsamoro IDPs continue to swell and languish in sub-human conditions in almost countless evacuation centers and host communities in the ARMM and Central Mindanao. On separate protest rallies on October 29-30 held in Midsayap, North Cotabato and in six towns of Maguindanao and Shariff Kabungsuwan, more than 10,000 Bangsamoro IDPs aired out their plight and appeals to the GRP, MILF and the UN: Stop the War! Save the IDPs! Solve the Bangsamoro Problem!

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MOA-AD: A living document

When the government offers to negotiate for peace with the MILF, it was welcome as a move in the right direction. Naturally, the initiative must come from the government because we all know that it was talking to a rebelling people, which is outside the ambit of the law. As the government wants it, they can be apprehended or arrested for they are rebelling against the duly constituted authority. It can be invoked, however, it is an accepted norm that national laws are deemed suspended in a peace negotiation. So what laws can be applied to the MILF, a rebel organization? Are international laws, conventions, or protocol, etc., deemed necessary in this case?

We have observed that when the GRP and MILF opened their initial peace talks, the first things they had to do was to work out for rules, guidelines, paradigms, parameters or framework on how to move forward in the peace negotiations. Good! This resulted to the forging a number of procedures in order to give due course to the peace talks since 1997.

The MILF, during the initial peace negotiation, submitted a single talking point, which is on how to solve the Bangsamoro problem, which the government had accepted. It was adopted by the Parties as the agenda of the peace negotiations. After 11 long years of peace negotiations, it came to our knowledge that the GRP-MILF Peace Talks is both bilateral and consensual, given the primacy of the resolution of decades of outstanding armed conflict and the age-old Mindanao problem and for that matter the Bangsamoro problem. Meaning – any unilateral act on each side is a clear violation of the established rules, that is, unacceptable! In other words, it is deemed that the GRP-MILF peace talk is in accord with accepted principles in the United Nations. And that whatever agreement it has entered into, it must be implemented as a commitment not only to the Bangsamoro and the Filipino peoples but more so to the international communities.

So far the Memorandum of Agreement on the Ancestral Domain Aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001 is the most important document/agreement ever jointly crafted by the GRP and the MILF as facilitated by the Government of Malaysia. The Bangsamoro People and the civil society organizations had expected much with high hope of solving four decades of armed conflict and the age-old Bangsamoro problem. To both the GRP-MILF peace negotiators, the MOA-AD is a compromise of sovereignty and self-determination as a "new formula" in the resolution of the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people for freedom and self-determination.

Sad enough, the aborted signing as slated on August 5, 2008 at Putrajaya, Malaysia following the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court with its subsequent rejection signaled the death of the peace process. By rejecting the MOA-AD, has the government offered a better alternative that will satisfy the legitimate demand of the Bangsamoro for self-determination? To the anti-Moro and anti-peace, the MOA-AD is dead! But to the Bangsamoro people and the peace advocates, it is a 'living' document that would forever haunt the Philippine government. Being left unsigned, it now documents the continued government policies, national injustices, hatred and bigotry against the Bangsamoro people. Hence, the struggle continues. The Bangsamoro shouts: Peace is our Aspiration, MOA-AD is the way!

Aborted MOA-AD signing sparks hostilities, renewed war in Mindanao

By DANIEL B. ONG

Two weeks after the Philippine Supreme Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) which prevented the GRP peace panel from signing the initialed Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) with its Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) counterparts, armed hostilities flared up anew on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao leaving on its trail 150 (more than 60 of them civilians) dead and about half million people displaced from their homes.

From the brink of peace, Mindanao is again on the brink of war. This was how Atty. Soliman Santos, a peace advocate and proponent of constitutional accommodation of the Bangsamoro problem, describes the present situation on the island.

For majority of civilians and IDPs on this conflict-torn island, it has always been a cycle of war.

Outbreak of violence

After the GRP and MILP peace panels finally broke the impasse on the contentious Ancestral Domain aspect of the negotiations during their meeting in Kuala Lumpur on July 17 with the initialing of the MOA-AD, euphoria was high in Mindanao, particularly among the Bangsamoro people, who were then looking forward to the fulfillment of their long-cherished recognition and restoration of their right to self-determination. The talks had been going on for almost 11 years, and every snag in between has always provoked threats and occasional eruptions of violence.

But this time, it was extremely serious.

The outbreak of violence actually started on August 10 when a group of MILF rebels under the leadership of Commander Ameril Ombra Kato occupied five towns in North Cotabato displacing 6,500 people in the towns of Aleosan and Midsayap alone. Intense fighting between pursuing government troops

and Kato's men later spread to more barangays in Midsayap and to Northern Kabuntalan in Maguindanao.

Kato is one of the MILF base commanders who have been skeptical over the outcome of the Front's 11-year old peace negotiation with the Philippine government.

Ten days later, on August 18, another group of MILF rebels attacked the coastal town of Maasim in Sarangani Province. Two civilians were among those killed in the incident; 2,700 families fled their homes. The rebels also engaged army soldiers in Pikit, sending 4,000 families fleeing for their lives.



MOBILE. A Moro woman evacuee prepares food beside a carabao-drawn cart loaded with her families' most basic belongings under the Datu Gumbay Piang Elementary School in Datu Piang, Maguindanao. Photo by Daniel Ong.

But it was the simultaneous attack on the towns of Kolambogan and Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte by MILF forces under Commander Bravo early morning of the same day that grabbed the headlines, gave the Macapagal-Arroyo government a good cover to turn its back on the MOA, and unleash the military to go after the two 'renegade' rebel leaders.

The attack in Lanao del Norte immediately resulted to 33 deaths, 27 of them civilians, and 8,000 displaced

families. It was also reported that properties were looted and 42 houses were burned by the rebels.

The MILF claimed that the attacks in Lanao del Norte as well as in North Cotabato were not sanctioned by its leadership. Bravo also denied in a media interview that he gave orders to his men to commit the reported atrocities.

Government abandons MOA, launches military offensives

In reaction to the attacks of so-called marauding MILF rebel commanders and to growing public pressure—particularly from the political opposition and a number of Christian political leaders whose interests are threatened by the MOA-AD—Malacanang announced on August 20 that it is not anymore going to sign the controversial MOA “in its present form or any other form”, and insisted that the document must undergo revision.



LAYANG. Dubbed as OV-10's “little brother”, this Layang (SF 260 TP) light attack double-body military plane has become a familiar sight over the skies of Mindanao. Two layangs figured in the aerial bombing which resulted in the killing of six fleeing civilians aboard a pumpboat in Barangay Tee of Datu Piang, Maguindanao on September 8, 2008. Photo by Cliff Winston Alvarico.

Instead of talking directly to the MILF, the government declared that it would rather “directly conduct dialogues with the communities”. It also demanded that the MILF surrender first their arms in line with the government's DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) policy in dealing with all armed groups.

“We will negotiate only on the context of the DDR,” Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said.

The following day, the manhunt for Commanders Bravo and Kato began, this time displacing

thousands of Moro families in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte. The government has filed a criminal case against the two and has put a PHP 10 million reward each for their capture.

The MILF denounced the government's abandonment of the MOA; it has also declared that it is not going to renegotiate.

“It's a done deal,” claimed Mohagher Iqbal, the Front's chief peace negotiator. Iqbal warned of a “full-blown war” after the government announced it will no longer sign the MOA-AD.

The government explained that it is not turning its back on the peace process in Mindanao, but merely demands that MILF surrenders their two ‘rogue’ commanders. It argued that the Front has no right to negotiate with the government if it could not reign in its own forces.

Meanwhile, news have been circulating about the revival of the Ilaga, a notorious para-military and fanatical group known for its atrocities against the Moro civilian populace during the 70s. In North Cotabato, the military has already started training civilian ‘auxiliary force’ to defend Christian communities against future MILF attacks.

More bombs, more IDPs

As the military launched its offensives against the two MILF commanders, more Moro communities in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Shariff Kabungsuwan and the two Lanao provinces have been caught in the crossfire.

When fighting started on August 21 between four (4) army battalions and Kato's men in Maguindanao, a total of 2,290 people have been displaced in Shariff Kabungsuwan; 16,093 in Maguindanao; and 5,823 in North Cotabato.

During the fighting on August 22-23, the Non-Violent Peace Force (NP) reported that hundreds of Moro civilians in Ambadao, Montay and Baloy in Datu Piang Municipality were trapped as the military pounded their communities with bombs and bullets.

A day later, 20 civilians were killed when government troops overran rebel positions in Lanao del Norte.

According to Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chairperson Leila de Lima, the number of civilians

killed or injured in military offensives could be much higher but it was difficult to get an exact figure as areas remained inaccessible due to heavy fighting. Food blockades were also imposed by the military in several conflict areas due to 'security considerations.'

As of September 2, 2008, the National Disaster Coordinating Committee (NDCC) reported that a total of 419,447 people had been displaced by fighting in 5 provinces of Mindanao, 89,024 of them housed in 132 temporary - packed and squalid - shelters.

And there seems to be no respite to the suffering of the Moro civilians caught up in the war even during the Muslim fasting season. On August 31, 2008, the Philippine president ordered the AFP to continue with the military operations against "lawless MILF elements" even during the holy month of Ramadhan which started on September 1 this year.

Peace process in peril

With the government's dropping of the MOA-AD and the shift in its peace policy towards the capitulation of the MILF, the 11-year GRP-MLF peace process which was already on the brink of ending the 30-year Moro insurgency is now put in a limbo.

The government's dismantling of the GRP peace panel on September 3, 2008 further reinforces this view. Despite its claim that it is "normal" to change the members of its peace panel, critics see the move as part of its strategy to tone down critiques by political opposition of its 'mishandling' of the peace negotiations and to employ 'prolonged peace negotiations' with all armed groups as a delaying tactic without the intention of really addressing the roots of Moro grievances which are already embodied in the unsigned MOA-AD.



HOMEWARD BOUND. IDP's in Talitay, Maguindanao on their way home after getting their share of relief goods during a relief mission conducted by the Kaduntaya Foundation, Inc. Photo by Daniel Ong.

"It's the end of the era of peace talks," KFI Executive Director and CBCS Secretary General Guimel Alim described the latest development in an interview with the Mindanews.

Alim was referring not only to the 3 decades of peace negotiations between the Moro rebels and the Philippine government which culminated in the 1996 Final Peace Accord between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) whose implementation still remains controversial to this day; he was probably more referring to the MILF's growing exasperation with the Filipino government's sincerity and political will to implement whatever peace accord it reaches with the Moro rebel group.

Notwithstanding continued appeals from the Church, religious leaders, civil society and international groups for the government and the MILF to declare a ceasefire and to return to the negotiating table, there seems to be neither strong incentive nor pressure on the two parties at the moment to heed the call.

With the status of the peace process hanging in a balance, the existing ceasefire mechanisms on the ground are also being weakened thus provoking more hostilities which could easily spread like wildfire to other areas.

The killing of six civilians (which include a pregnant woman and four children) on board a pump boat in Datu Piang, Maguindanao by military warplanes last September 8 underscores more how international conventions on protection of civilians during armed conflict could be easily put aside by warring parties when negotiations fail and the language of the gun takes over its place.

Alarming scenario

For the civil society and human rights groups, the drift in the current political situation is but alarming.

Even with the 3-months extension of the tour of duty of the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) which was about to expire last August 31, 2008, the lack of partner on the government side with whom it could relate with may even make Malaysia — which had been brokering the talks—decide for an early pull-out of the already reduced IMT contingent from the island.

And the international donor agencies, which have long been putting their stakes on the signing of a peace agreement, may not take long to pack their bags too.

Upholding MOA-AD's Supremacy Over the Constitution

BY SAMMY P. MAULANA

The post Cold War between the United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) is known to a decade of peace negotiations and peace accords. This is largely owing to the experience in war in the past 15 years which had educated the international community and those who live in conflict situation that reaching peace agreement is a "beginning and not an end." It is also a breakthrough for peace because it is in this decade that almost half of all civil or state wars are culminated with peace agreements.



The author poses with a child who joined the peace rally of the IDPs in their appeal to stop the war.

Among these peace negotiations are those in South Africa that lead to multiracial democracy that marked the end of apartheid. The other one is the Israel-Palestine Accord which was not implemented as contemplated due to the postponement of the final status of the negotiation. We have also the Paris Conference on Cambodia, the 1990 Agreement on Human Rights in El Salvador, the 1992 General Peace Agreement in Mozambique, the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the 1994 Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala, the 1998 Belfast in Northern Ireland, 1999 Lome Peace Agreement in Sierra Leone, the 2000 and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Burundi and the latest of which is the Kosovo independence.

We have also of the same kind in Asia in the case

of the Comprehensive Peace Agreements in East Timor and Aceh in Indonesia in 2000s and in the Philippines in the case of peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). However, these peace negotiations have not succeeded due to the deceptive stance of the government.

Recently, the GRP and MILF Peace Panels just wrapped their work and came up with the final draft of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) which was calendared for signing at Putrajaya, Malaysia on August 05, 2008. However, the signing was because the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) in response to the two (2) petitions filed before them. After series of oral arguments conducted, the Supreme Court ruled the MOA-AD unconstitutional. This had shock the entire Bangsamoro including those individuals and international bodies and communities who are sympathetic to the GRP-MILF Peace Talks.

The MOA-AD is supposed to pave the way to realize the Bangsamoro aspiration to restore their right to self-determination restore and their self-governance which was usurped by this government. Likewise, the MOA-AD will promote a just and lasting peace which promote a just and lasting peaceful co-existence between the Bangsamoro and other people in Mindanao.

The MOA-AD is a product of the tripartite initiatives of the GRP with MILF and the Malaysian Government. The MOA-AD maybe unconstitutional as far as the Philippine code of laws in concern but is a valid document that can stand before any international laws or courts of justice in the world. Furthermore, the MOA-AD is binding as it was initialed by both the GRP and MILF Peace Panels

Bangsamoro, unite and uphold the supremacy of the MOA-AD over the Philippine Constitution.

The Bangsamoro History

And the Struggle for Self-Determination

1280

Presence of Muslim traders in Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan brought about by the expansion of commercial contacts between China and Arab lands.

1380

Tombstone dating of a Muslim religious figure in Sulu.

1450

A Johore-born Arab adventurer, Shari'ful Hashem Syed Abu Bakr, arrived in Sulu from Melaka. He married Param Isuli, daughter of Raja Baguinda.

1451

By this time, the Melakan Sultanate had become a leading center of Islam in Southeast Asia, and as a time-tested protégé of the Ming dynasty. Yung Lo sent away his daughter Hang Li-po and a cortege of five-hundred Mandarin ladies as a gift to Melakan Sultan Mansor Shah in 1459. In turn, Shah conceived "Bukit Cina" as a permanent residential court for his esteemed visitors.

1457-1480

The Royal Sultanate of Sulu was founded. Shari'ful Hashem Syed Abu Bakr declared himself H.R.H. Paduka Maulana Mahasari Sharif Sultan Hashem Abu Bakr, Sultan of Sulu, of the Saudi House of Hashemite in Hadramaut, where most Tausug and Yakan believe Prophet Mohammad's genealogy is traced. H.R.H. Sultan Syed Hashem Abu Bak'r reigned for about 23 years.

1470

Muslim conquest of the Majapahit Empire.

1473-1521

Golden age and rule of Nakhoda Ragam Sultan Bulkeiah's Sultanate of Brunei that expanded hegemony to include North Borneo, Sarawak, Indonesia Balabac, Banggi, and Palawan in the far-eastern archipelago (present-day Philippines)

and the new Royal Sultanate of Sulu.

1480-1519

Reign of H.R.H. Sultan Kamal ud-Din.

1509

A Bengali Putih and Diego Lopez de Sequeira with a squadron of five Portuguese battle ships established the first White settlement in Melaka. Ferdinand Magellan (Portuguese: Fernão de Magalhães; Spanish: Fernando de Magallanes) was said to be a member of this expedition.

1511

Portuguese privateer Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Melaka from de Sequeira and reported of Muslim trading vessels from Sulu anchored in that Malay port.



Alfonso
de Albuquerque

1512

Unnamed Portuguese sailors effected a brief landing in Mindanao.

1520

Jesuit historian Francisco Combe reported of an unnamed Muslim Sharif who tried to spread Islam to Jolo but died at Bud Tumangtangis; His magnificent tomb was comparable to those in Makkah, but unfortunately in the years following, Manila Spaniards burned it to the ground.

1521

Advent of Christianity. Portuguese navigator, Ferdinand Magellan, landed and claimed the far-

eastern archipelago for Spain. For more than 3 centuries, the Spanish rule prevailed over the archipelago, particularly in Luzon and the Visayas. They forced the native inhabitants to convert to Catholicism. Those who defied them faced the sword. However, the colonialist failed to conquer Muslim areas in the south, which have been characterized as having their own system of government and practices their own politics and cultures.



**Ferdinand
Magellan**

1565-1663

Fourth Stage of Moro Wars.

1619

Sultanate in Maguindanao from the principalities of Maguindanao and Buayan.

1638-1640

Records had it that Sulu Sultan Wasits many heroic battles during this period at Bud Datu in Jolo island against the Manila Spaniards were never lucidly recorded. It was Wasit who named this hill to honor the bravery and unconditional loyalty of his datus.

1718-1772

Fifth Stage of Moro Wars

21 December 1751

A furious Manila governor-general F. Valdez y Tamon issued a decree that ordered: (1) The extermination of all Moros with fire and sword; (2) The destruction of all their crops and desolate their lands; (3) Make Moro captives; (4) Recover Christian slaves; and (5) Exempt all Christians from payment of any taxes and tributes while engaged in the termination of these Moros.

1835

Spanish attack on the Banuwa Bangingih in Sepak island (Jolo, Sulu). Full scale attack on the island, not even a single coconut tree left standing. There was fierce resistance.

1836

King of Spain & Sultan Sulu, signed "Treaty of Peace, Protection & Commerce."

1842

The Commander of American Naval Expedition concluded a "Trade & Navigation Treaty between US & Sultanate of Sulu" Trade & Navigation Treaty between US & Sulu Sultan.

1849

The Queen of United Kingdom & Ireland - peace, friendship and good understanding.

March 1877

The Sulu Protocol was signed between Spain, England, and Germany that recognized Spain's rights over Sulu and, in consideration for the said lease of North Borneo, ended European hostilities in the area

22 July 1878

Sultan Jamal ul-Alam signed a treaty with the Spanish Crown making whole of Sulu a protectorate of Spain yet retained her autonomy and the privilege to fly own flag thus saved Jolo from further destruction.

1883

Manila Spanish government established a customs house in Ciudad de Zamboanga to clear goods coming into the Sultanate of Sulu but, on the insistence of the British, Jolo was declared a free port and trade continued

12 June 1898

Emilio Aguinaldo declared independence from Spain and Cavite

10 December 1898

Treaty of Paris was signed in Washington DC between the United States and Spain. Spain sold "Philippines" to USA for 20 million Mexican dollars after "losing" the Spanish-American War. US troops began to forcibly incorporate Muslim areas into the

"Philippine state". The Moros did not recognize the agreement, which clinched the American takeover. The Bangsamoro homeland over which Spain could not claim to have colonial authority was included as part of the territory transferred to USA. The Bangsamoro people were never consulted. They waged a fierce resistance to defend their homeland.



The declaration of Philippine Independence as illustrated on a Five Peso bill.

21 December 1898

McKinley issued a proclamation calling for a Philippine colonial policy of benevolent assimilation

5 February 1842

American captain Charles Wilkes landed in Jolo and signed the first-ever US-documented peace & trade treaty with Sultan Jamal ul-Kiram I

20 August 1899

USA negotiated with the Bangsamoro people under the leadership of Sultan Jamalul II. Sultan Jamalul Kiram II hesitatingly signed the treaty with Gen. John C. Bates. (Bates Treaty or Senate Document No. 136, 56th Congress, 1st Session, Serial 3851). The treaty was in no certain terms a recognition of the US of sovereign character of the Bangsamoro state and precisely distinct from Aguinaldo republic.



Sultan
Jamalul Kiram II

A very critical error of translation exists in this treaty. The Tausug version states "The support, aid, and protection of the Jolo Island and Archipelago are in the American nation," whereas the English version read: "The sovereignty of the United States over the whole Archipelago of Jolo and its dependencies is declared and acknowledged."

The word "sovereignty" was not used anywhere in the Tausug version. (Peter Gowing, *Mandate in Moroland. The American Government of Muslim Filipinos 1899-1920*, p. 122). Among the other terms of the treaty were: (1) Non-interference with religion, social and domestic customs or internal economic or political affairs of Moros unless requested to do so; (2) The US was not to give or sell Sulu or any part of it to any other nations; (3) Continuation of the \$250.00 monthly allowance that was initiated by the Spaniards; and (4) Slaves were allowed to purchase their freedom. American forces were organized into the military District of Mindanao-Jolo, under the command of General Bates.



William
McKinley

20 March 1900

General Bates was replaced by Brigadier General William A. Kobbe, and the District of Mindanao-Jolo was renamed to Department of Mindanao-Jolo. American forces in Mindanao were reinforced. Garrisons and stations were established in Sulu and other coastal towns of Mindanao.

7 November 1900

The US paid Spain another \$100,000 to incorporate the islands stretching as far as Sibutu to Cagayan de Sulu. President William McKinley's Instruction to the First Philippine Commission of 1900 treated the Moro Nation initially as a Dependent Nation.

1902

Philippine bill of July 1 of 1902-the American government recognized the distinctions between the Moro, the "Pagan" and the Christians Filipinos and adapted their methods of governance accordingly.

1903-1914

USA established the Moro Province.

2 March 1904

The US unilaterally abrogated the Bates Treaty, upon recommendations by Gov. Gen. Wood, for two main reasons: the Sultan's failure to quell Moro resistance and the treaty's hindrance to effective colonial administration of the area. Payments to the Sultan also stopped.

"... and don't make us do what is against our religion and don't ask us to pay poll tax forever and ever as long as there is sun and moon, and don't ask taxes for land which are our rights of the Moro people, including all that grows (is planted) in Jolo and its islands."

April 1904

The Sultan protested the unilateral abrogation of the Bates Treaty. He argued that he couldn't stop the Moro conflict against the Americans because of US had imposed poll and land taxes on the population, a practice which the Moros were not used to. He urged the Americans not to "put yokes on our necks that we cannot bear, and don't make us do what is against our religion and don't ask us to pay poll tax forever and ever as long as there is sun and moon, and don't ask taxes for land which are our rights of the Moro people, including all that grows (is planted) in Jolo and its islands." (Letter to Gov. Gen. Luke Wright in Peter Gowing, p. 350-351)

12 November 1904

US Philippine Commission restores annual payments to the Sultan and his advisers.

7 March 1906

US troops massacred as many as a thousand Moros in Bud Dajo, Sulu (The Boston Globe)

1915

American governor, Frank Carpenter, tricked and virtually forced the Sulu Sultanate to renounce his temporal sovereignty at the time US halted military campaign and policy of attraction was launched.



Gen. Leonard Wood

1916

Battle of Bud Dajo Jolo, Sulu, where 1000 Moros were massacred by the Americans.

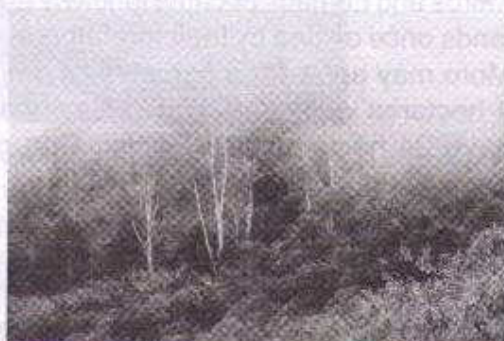
1917

Bureau of non-Christian tribes was organized to establish "mutual understanding and complete fusion" of the Muslims into the majority segment of Filipino Christians.

9 June 1921

57 Moro Datus and leaders of Sulu petitioned the American authorities in Manila and Washington, part of the petition, reads: "Whereas, it would be an act of great injustice to cast our people aside, turnover our country to the Filipinos in the north to be governed by them without our consent and thrust upon us a government not of our own people, nor by our people, nor for our own people."

Mt. Bud Dahu



1926

US congressman Robert Bacon introduced House Bill No. 12772 during successive sessions. The bill proposed to separate Mindanao and Sulu from the rest of the Philippines and to have US permanently retain these islands under American sovereignty.

15 November 1935

The Commonwealth Government was established, headed by Manuel L. Quezon, who served as a Sergeant in the Spanish Army.



Manuel
L. Quezon

18 March 1935

A historic assembly of more than 100 Maranao leaders passed a strong-worded manifesto known as the Dansalan Declaration addressed to the US President vehemently opposed the annexation of the Bangsamoro homeland in reaction to the conspiracy of the constitutional convention organized by America to write the Philippine constitution.

7 November 1936

Quezon signed the Commonwealth Act #141 with Section 84 declaring all Moro ancestral lands as public lands. This would later be a major factor in the marginalization of the Moros in their own homeland. Myriad of Christian inhabitants from Luzon and Visayas were lured by it and settled down south. The Moros and Lumads became landless and deprived of lands once owned by their forefathers. An individual Moro may apply for a parcel of land not exceeding 4 hectares while Christian settlers was allowed to have 24 hectares and Filipino Corporations may apply up to 1,024 hectares.

1937-1938

By this time, there had been heavy dynamics between the Quezon government. The government

decided to demolish the cottas or fortification built by Moro leaders. The demolition started on November 22, 1937 until September 12, 1938. Destroyed cottas were in Diluasan in Lanao, Lalabuan, Pindaluman, Tukod, Baltig, Ambulato and Tagayo.

June 1939

President Quezon signed Commonwealth Act #441, another settlement law creating NLSA or National Land Settlement Administration. The Act distributed lands but giving priority to settlers who completed a preparatory military training to anticipate the impending Japanese invasion. 3 major settlements were opened with 2 in Cotabato Valley. 200 Christian families from Luzon and Visayas benefitted with 12 hectares each and a financial assistance as a start up.

1946

US grants Philippine independence, but they continued to determine the economic and political direction of the fledging Republic.

1960s

The central government in Manila enforced a "homestead" policy, which propelled the escalation of Christian migration to Mindanao region. Settlers from Luzon and Visayas occupied the ancestral land of the Moros and other indigenous people. Local and foreign big business obtained titles over the Moro lands. Enraged by the "legal" land grabbing, the Moros responded with arms, which ignited a long drawn and bitter conflict between the Bangsamoro people and the Philippine government.

1961

Sulu congressman Datu Ombra Amilbangsa introduced house bill no. 5682 entitled "An Act Granting and Recognizing the Independent of the Province of Sulu".

March 1968

At least 28 Moro army recruits were killed in the Jabidah Massacre on Corregidor Island, triggering widespread Muslim indignation. The incident released pent-up anger from years of prejudice, ill treatment, and discrimination. Moro students in Manila held a weeklong protest vigil over an empty coffin marked "Jabidah" in front of the presidential palace.

1968-1971

Constabulary elements took control of Muslim communities. Moro student activism grew. Moro consciousness, based on Islamic revivalism and knowledge of distinct history and identity, gathered steam. Political organizations emerged. Datu Udtog Matalam led the first salvo by leading the Mindanao Independent Movement (MIM) declaring the whole of Lanao, Cotabato Empire, Davao Sur, all of Zamboanga Peninsula, Sulu (including Tawi-tawi), Basilan and Palawan as independent. These were the same areas identified in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

Eventually, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) was established under Nur Misuari with the goal of seeking an independent Moro nation. Land conflicts in Mindanao escalated. Paramilitary groups proliferated; some attached to Christian politicians, some to loggers, and some to Moro politicians.

Hundreds of young Moros were sent to Malaysia for military training. Sabah became a supply depot, communication center and sanctuary for Moro rebels. Towards 1971, the constabulary took control of many towns because of growing violence. Schools were closed, farms abandoned, commerce stagnates, refugees increased.

The Christian-led paramilitary, the Ilaga (also known as Ilonggo Land Grabbers Association), entered the scene in aid of the government troops against the Moros. Intensive attacks, land-grabbing, murders and burning down of houses ensued. One attack at a mosque in Manili, left 65 men, women and children, dead and mutilated. A BBC radio report of the massacre drew attention of Libyan leader Muammar Khadafy.

21 July 1971

Leaders from all sectors of Moro society published a manifesto demanding that the government take action to stop the attacks. The government called the manifesto a threat.

August 1971

Residents of Buldon (Cotabato) fortified their town after killing some Christian loggers. The army responded with a week-long artillery bombardment.

September-October 1971

The cycle of reprisals was uncontrollable. Fighting between the Baracudas (paramilitary group led by Moros) and government troops left hundreds dead on both sides.

November 1971

40 Maranao Moros were summarily executed at a military checkpoint in Tacub. The Moros accused government of genocide.

January 1972

The government took 8 Muslims ambassadors on a tour of Mindanao to show that the charges of genocide "were exaggerated". The third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Jeddah, KSA requested the Philippine government to protect the lives and property of Muslims.

July 1972

A Libyan and Egyptian delegation toured the troubled areas and concluded that while no strong evidence existed of state-supported genocide, there was clearly a war between Christians and Muslims.

21 September 1972

President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial Law. One month later the first organized Moro counteroffensive was launched in Marawi. The MNLF came out into the open and claimed leadership of the Moro secessionist movement.



14 November 1972

The MNLF, headed by University of the Philippines Professor Nur Misuari, Salamat Hashim and others, was formally announced. Fighting escalated between Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and MNLF forces.

1973

Marcos attempted to improve socioeconomic development in the south while maintaining military operations. Presidential decrees ordered relief and welfare projects and resettlement refugees, declared parts of the Moroland as inalienable. Presidential task force for the reconstruction and development of Mindanao was constituted to rebuild areas devastated by violence. Marcos won over key Moro leaders outside the MNLF. The Philippine Amanah Bank was created to expand the class of Moro entrepreneurs. The Southern Philippine Development Administration (SPDA) was created to bolster business activity. The 4th ICFM (in Benghazi) maintained pressure on Marcos and described the problem as "internal to an independent sovereign state". Marcos responded by realigning his foreign policy and organizing diplomatic initiatives to win over the Muslim world.

February 1974

SouthCom unleashed full force on the MNLF, who have taken control of Jolo, in the biggest battle of the war. In mainland Mindanao CemCom attacked the MNLF forces in Cotabato. Abroad, the MNLF gained official recognition from Muslim countries as the representative of the Moro people.

March 1974

The Philippine government panel held its first meeting with MNLF chairman Nur Misuari and his deputy Salamat Hashil in Jeddah. Marcos sent negotiating panels to MNLF commanders in the field. The MNLF underwent fierce debates on how to respond to the Marcos initiatives. The issue was settled for the MNLF by the 5th ICFM, which supported autonomy as basis for negotiations between the MNLF and Manila. The definition of autonomy came from the working paper of the committee of four (Senegal, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Somalia) which provides for self government within the framework of Philippine national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Marcos intensified his diplomatic initiatives, sending delegations including special emissary, Imelda Marcos to Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. The Philippine government opened embassies in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Algeria, Lebanon and Kuwait. Relations with 13 other South Asian, Middle-Eastern and African Muslim nations were strengthened. The Philippine also lobbied the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Meeting.

January 1975

The war reached a stalemate. MNLF Chairman Prof. Nur Misuari, his deputy Salamat Hashim, and government representatives held their first meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Autonomy was the first exploratory option, after the 6th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) supported it as basis for negotiations. The definition of autonomy was culled from the Working Paper of the Committee of Four (Senegal, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Somalia) which provides for self-government within the framework of Philippine national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Marcos intensified his diplomatic initiatives, sending delegations, including special emissary Imelda Marcos to Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. The Philippine government opened embassies in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Algeria, Lebanon and Kuwait. Relations with 13 other South Asian, Middle Eastern and African Muslim nations were strengthened. The Philippines also lobbied the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Meeting.



Nur Misuari delivers a speech in front of MNLF members in Davao City on May 2008.

1976

With negotiations in full swing, Marcos built his case. He met the OIC Secretary General, the Senegalese Amadou Karim Gaye, in Kenya; sent a delegation to the 7th ICFM (Istanbul) and the Non-Aligned Summit (Colombo); invited the committee of four to Zamboanga City and Manila; and sent Imelda Marcos to personally confer with Khadafy. In the field, local ceasefires were forged, providing space to implement a "policy of attraction". Key rebel leaders were offered amnesty, livelihood projects and business opportunities as well as political positions that allow them to surrender with "dignity".

Surrenderists include Amelil Malaguio, of the Kutawato (Cotabato) revolutionary committee, and Abdulhamid Lukman, a former municipal judge who was Misuari's legal adviser in Jeddah.

23 December 1976

MNLF Chairman Prof. Nur M Misuari and Philippine Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero signed the Tripoli Agreement. It provides for autonomy in 13 provinces and 9 cities in south. Marcos instructed Barbero to include one last point in the text: the Philippine government shall take all necessary constitutional processes for the implementation of the entire agreement.

January-April 1977

A general ceasefire was arranged. Marcos approved the code of Muslim personal laws, which establishes Shari'ah courts as part of the national system of courts. Talks resumed in February to hammer out details of implementing the Tripoli Agreement. A deadlock unfolded when the MNLF asserted that the 13 provinces be immediately declared a single autonomous unit. Marcos maintained that certain constitutional procedures, including a plebiscite were needed because the majority of the people in the 13 provinces are not Muslims. Imelda Marcos hurried to Libya on March 12 to solicit Khadafy's help. He suggested forming a provisional government to supervise the plebiscite. Misuari refused to head the provisional government. On March 25, Marcos issued proclamation 1628 declaring autonomy in the 13 provinces. On April 17, a plebiscite was called over objections from the MNLF. Only 10 of the 13 provinces voted for autonomy. Marcos implemented his own version of autonomy by dividing the 10 provinces into two autonomous regions—regions IX and XII. Negotiations broke down.

May-December 1977

The 8th ICFM in Tripoli allowed Misuari for the first time to address the conference. Ministers expressed disappointment over the outcome of negotiations. By this time however the improved image of the Philippines was working in its favor and the ICFM simply recommended that negotiations continue. This shook the MNLF leadership and the split emerged. A group led by Salamat Hashim broke away from the Misuari-led MNLF leadership. Hashim went to Cairo, Egypt declaring a new MNLF. Arabs supporters were equally divided: Egypt supported Salamat while Libya leaned towards Misuari. Mediation by the

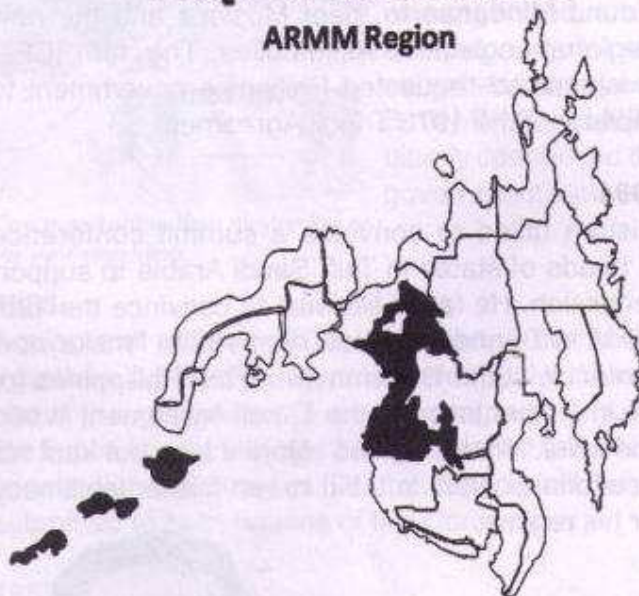
OIC and Muslim World League failed. Not wishing to be used by the traditional politicians, Hashim transferred to Cairo and went on to form the "new MNLF", eventually the Moro Islamic liberation Front (MILF). Lucman and Pendatun reinvigorated the Bangsamoro Liberation organization to gain support, but Arab states ignored them.

1978

Negotiations between Manila and the MNLF resumed but the government panel chose to negotiate with Hashim Salamat instead of Misuari. Meanwhile the Marcos government presented a report to the OIC on the functioning of the new autonomous regional government.

Map of Mindanao

ARMM Region



17-29 April 1978

The 19th ICFM met Dakar, Senegal and Misuari was recognized as the chairman and spokesman for the MNLF. Hashim could not present because Egyptian authorities, not wishing to antagonize Libya further, prevented him from leaving Cairo. MNLF members in the field were reported conducting kidnappings and ambushes. In Patikul, Sulu a local MNLF leader invited the AFP to a peace dialogue. When they arrived, Gen. Teodulfo Bautista and 33 soldiers were shot dead. Government policy turned increasingly violent.

1979

Misuari reverted to his original goal of secession and renewed efforts to convince Islamic states, but to no avail. His only new supporter is Iran, after a visit to Imam Khomeini in June. Meanwhile the Philippine panel continued negotiations with Hashim faction in Cairo. Surrendered MNLF founder Abul Khayr Alonto joined the government panel. The 10th ICFM in Morocco affirmed support for the Tripoli Agreement. Diplomatic initiatives focused on ensuring that the agreement was actually being implemented.

1980

Pocket wars and skirmishes continued. In March, Malaysia and Indonesia offered to serve as "honest brokers" arguing that the problem has regional implications that could be resolved by ASEAN. The Philippine government took newly installed OIC secretary general Habib Chatti of Tunisia on a tour around Mindanao to meet Muslims and the new Regional Legislative Assemblies. The 11th ICFM in Islamabad requested Philippine government to implement the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

1981

Misuari failed to convince a summit conference of heads of states in Taif, Saudi Arabia to support secession. He failed likewise to convince the 12th ICFM in Baghdad, which resolves to "make new contact with the Government of the Philippines for the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement in text and spirit." Marcos "lifted" Martial Law but kept his dictatorial powers in a bid to win further legitimacy for his regime.

Benigno
Aquino

In May, opposition leader Benigno Aquino released from prison and allowed to go into exile in the US, visited Misuari in Jeddah and promised to support the Tripoli Agreement. MNLF forces killed 120 government soldiers in Pata island, of Jolo. In retaliation, more than 15,000 troops were sent to the island in a massive operation that infuriated Muslim government officials.

1982

Marcos consolidated the Philippine diplomatic position. He visited Saudi Arabia King Khaled and OIC's Habib Chatti. The 13th ICFM called on government "to speed the implementation" of the agreement. It also appealed to the MNLF to prepare for new talks "as a united front". The newly established Moro Revolutionary Organization, a member of the National Democratic Front (NDF) called for a "people's war as the main form of the Moro people's revolutionary struggle". Efforts to link communist and Moro insurgencies failed, but local forces cooperated on the ground.

1983

The 14th ICFM in Dhaka called on Moros to unite prior to new negotiations that will put the Tripoli Agreement into effect. Benigno Aquino returned from exile and was assassinated on arrival at the Manila Airport. Popular challenge to Marcos regime intensified throughout the country.



1984

Marcos won new battles on the diplomatic front. He sent emissaries to the 4th Islamic Summit in Casablanca and to the World Muslim congress in Karachi. In February, he held bilateral meetings with the presidents of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore. The 15th ICFM reaffirmed its commitment to respect the territorial integrity of the Philippines and again called on the MNLF to close ranks. In March, Hashim's "new MNLF" officially declared itself a separate organization with the name Moro Islamic liberation Front (MILF), with a religious as well as nationalist agenda. By this time, mass demonstrations became spontaneous and the

first nationally coordinated *welgang bayan* (people's strike) showed the depth of popular opposition to Marcos.

1985

Marcos scheduled a snap presidential election to defuse widespread tension. The opposition united, with Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, Benigno's widow, as the anti-Marcos candidate.



The EDSA revolution that ousted Marcos.

February 26, 1986

Snap elections were held, with Marcos proclaimed as winner. Days later, he was ousted after a failed coup sent millions of people to main thoroughfare, known as "EDSA" to protect mutineers from counterattack. The Marcos family was flown to Hawaii by the US government. Corazon Aquino took oath as president and established a revolutionary government. She appointed a commission to draft a new constitution, which includes provisions for autonomy in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera Region of Luzon.

March-September 1986

MILF sent a message of its readiness to discuss peace with President Aquino. In August, through the OIC and Muslim World League mediation, the MILF and MNLF agreed in principle to negotiate jointly in an expanded panel. On September 5, Aquino visited the MNLF camp in Sulu to talk peace with Misuari. Misuari seized the initiative and gained recognition for the MNLF from the government as its negotiating partner. The MILF displayed political strength through a militant consultative assembly in October, but failed to elicit government response.

1987

Philippine government and MNLF panels met in January in Jeddah and agreed to discuss autonomy, "subject to democratic processes". Aquino rejected MNLF requests to suspend autonomy provisions in draft constitution, which ratified was in February. The MILF launched a 5-day offensive. A meeting with government panel Chair Aquilino Pimentel requested a temporary ceasefire. Talks between Manila and MNLF bogged down as government unilaterally



Corazon Aquino then succeeded as the new president.

implemented the autonomy mandate in the newly approve constitution over MNLF objections. A Mindanao Regional Consultative Commission (RCC) was organized, and a new autonomy bill was submitted to congress. Both MNLF and MILF bitterly denounced the government's moves.

1988

Aquino met with the RCC, and started diplomatic initiatives by briefing Islamic diplomats in Manila about the government's peace program, arguing the Tripoli Agreement was being implemented within constitutional processes. Draft autonomy bills were submitted to both houses of the Congress.

1989

Congress passed Republic Act 6734, which creates the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Aquino signed into law on August 1. In November 19, a plebiscite was called, boycotted both by MILF and MNLF. Only 4 provinces (Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi) opted for autonomy because of opposition from MNLF and MILF and Christian residents.

1990

Regional elections were held in ARMM. A regional governor and regional assembly assume positions. Aquino signed executive orders that define central government relations with ARMM, which was officially inaugurated on November 6.

1991

The 20th ICFM in Istanbul called for a resumption of negotiations between the Philippine government and the MNLF.

February-May 1992

In February, Fidel Ramos, candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections, met Khadaffy in Tripoli to discuss a comprehensive and permanent solution to the war. In May, Ramos was elected president and immediately issues a call for peace.



Fidel
V. Ramos

July-October 1992

In July, Ramos appointed a National Unification Commission (NUC) to formulate an amnesty program for the MNLF members and a negotiation process. The 20th ICFM in Istanbul called for the resumption of the peace talks between Manila and the MNLF. The first round of peace talks was held in Tripoli, Libya in October. The NUC started a consultation process, including a meeting with the MILF.

1993

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas hosted a second round of exploratory talks. In July, the NUC submitted its consolidated recommendations, prompting Ramos to issue Executive Order 125 defining the approach and administrative structure for government peace efforts. The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) was created to continue the work begun by the NUC. Formal talks between the government and the MNLF began in October in Jakarta. An Interim Ceasefire was signed, along with the memorandum creating support committees to discuss substantive concerns. Alatas reported the progress of negotiations to the

21st ICFM in Karachi. The MILF posed no objections to the talks. In December, the OIC visited Sulu.

1994-1995

Ramos issued Proclamation 347 granting amnesty to rebels and establishing a government-MNLF Joint Ceasefire Committee. In September, the second round of formal talks by support committees began. Ramos visited Saudi Arabia in October and met King Fahd and OIC Secretary General Hamid Alfigabid (of Niger). Minor military engagements took place before almost every important meeting of the peace process.

In October, the government panel briefed Libya on the progress of the talks. At the end of the year, the third round of formal talks resumed in Jakarta. An Interim Agreement was signed, containing 81 points of consensus in defense and regional and security forces, education, economic and financial systems, mines and minerals, Shariah courts, functions of a Legislative Assembly and Executive Council and representation in the national government and administrative system. Predominantly Christian opponents throughout Mindanao denounced this agreement. Political opposition increased. Christian vigilante groups vowed to conduct massive attacks if the agreement was finalized.

January-June 1996

The government rushed to placate politicians opposing the Interim Agreement. Consultations were held every month with local officials and members of the Congress, with Ramos himself participating in some consultations. The government organized public meetings in Mindanao to promote the Interim Agreement. In June, Indonesia called a consultation of the OIC committee of six. A meeting of the Philippine Government-MNLF Mixed Committee resulted in agreement to establish the Southern Philippines Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD).

July-August 1996

Members of Congress expressed opposition to the Interim Agreement. The Senate organized public hearings and calls on the executive to justify its actions and commitments. The Senate agreed to support the agreement, but only with 9 substantial amendments, which dilute the powers and autonomy of institutions to be set up under the agreement. Six

senators continued their opposition, and led a group of politicians who file a 54-page petition asking the Supreme Court to nullify the agreement. Catholic Bishops expressed support for the agreement, subject to refinements in the text. Misuari announced his bid for the ARMM governorship. The 9th Mixed Committee meeting and 4th round of formal talks take place in Jakarta. Exploratory talks with the MILF began.

September-December 1996

The Final Peace Agreement was signed on September 2. The MILF distanced itself from the agreement, but committed not to stand in the way of peace. In the ARMM elections, Misuari ran for governor and won, and six MNLF leaders were elected to the Regional Legislative Assembly. Ramos issued Executive Order 371, which departs from Agreement on some significant points. In October, the government formed a new negotiating panel for talks with MILF in October. The MILF held a huge assembly near Cotabato City in December 3-5 and reaffirmed commitment to independence.

7 January 1997

Government and MILF representatives met and issued a joint press statement. Their single point agenda was: "How to resolve the Bangsamoro problem?" There were nine issues and concerns raised: (1) Ancestral domain, (2) Displaced and landless Bangsamoro, (3) Destruction of properties and war victims, (4) Human rights issues, (5) Social and cultural discrimination, (6) Corruption of the mind and the moral fiber, (7) Economic inequities and widespread poverty, (8) Exploitation of natural resources, and (9) Agrarian related issues.

However, heavy fighting between MILF and AFP forces in Buldon which left more than a hundred dead, marred the negotiations. Another meeting in early February was suspended because of renewed fighting.

March-July

The committees met again in March and agreed to form an Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, with Fr Eliseo Mercado (president of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City) as chair. Meetings took place in April, May and June but were bogged down by continued fighting. In June, the AFP launched its biggest offensive in June. By July, an agreement on

cessation of hostilities was forged. Further meetings between the two sides followed.

1998

Actor-politician Joseph Ejercito Estrada was elected as president. He has an electoral alliance with politicians who opposed the peace agreement. Anti-agreement politicians did well in the local elections. MNLF leaders, save for one, lost their bids for local positions. Ten congressional representatives drafted a bill to amend the Organic Act on ARMM in accordance with the peace agreement's provisions. A new government negotiating panel was constituted to talks to the MILF. In August, the Organization of SADEM (Sulu Archipelago Decolonization Movement) for restoration of independence of Sulu Archipelago through the United Nations. Hadji Limpasan was chairman of SADEM central committee.



Joseph Estrada

1999

New outbreaks of fighting between MILF and AFP followed by re-establishment of ceasefire. Government recognized two MILF camps. ARMM elections were due in September. Three bills had been filed in Congress to amend the Organic Act on the ARMM, expanding it in accordance with the 1996 Peace Agreement. A plebiscite on the new autonomous region was due by end of the year but might be deferred.

October

Following 20 months of talks at the technical committees level, formal peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) opened on October 25 at the Da'wah Center, Sultan Kudarat, Maguidanao.

November

Fighting broke out in North Cotabato between AFP and MILF forces.

December

GRP and MILF peace panels met on December 17 and agreed on the rules and procedures for the conduct of formal peace talks.

2000

January

In the first week of January, President Estrada set a deadline of June 30 for the forging of a peace agreement. Fighting broke out in Maguindanao between AFP and MILF forces. MILF Camp Omar Al-Farouk, recognized by the MILF-GRP Second Joint Acknowledgement of October 1999, was attacked by the AFP on January 9. Negotiations between the GRP and the MILF on procedural matters took place from January 17-20.

February

In February 21, the AFP took control of Camp Omar Al-Farouk. The bombing of a ferry boat in Ozamis City on February 25 was one of a series of attacks the government blamed on the MILF, which the latter denied.

March

A land dispute in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte led to a siege of the town hall in mid-March by alleged MILF elements. In, March 2, on their joint Communiqué, the government and the MILF clustered the nine issues and concerns raised earlier into six: (1) Ancestral Domain/ Agrarian-related Issues, (2) Destruction of Properties and War victims/ Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro, (3) Human Rights Issues, (4) Social and Cultural Discrimination/ Corruption of the Mind and Moral Fiber, (5) Economic Inequities and Widespread Poverty, and (6) Exploitation of Natural Resources. In March 19, after two days of fighting AFP Marines assumed control of Kauswagan. In March 21, President Estrada announced an "all-out war" against the MILF.

In 26 March, MILF Chief Hashim Salamat called for a United Nations-organized independence vote for Muslims in Mindanao.

The "all-out-war" invited international attention to massive evacuations.

April

The GRP and MILF signed an aide memoire on April 27, signaling agreement to normalize the situation in Mindanao, pursue the ongoing peace process, and resolve the situation in the Narciso Ramos Highway. The next morning, government and MILF forces fought for control of the highway. In April 30, the MILF suspended peace negotiations indefinitely citing the military's disregard of the April 27 agreement. Renewed fighting occurs towards the end of the month in Matanog, Maguindanao.



Hashim
Salamat

May

In 5 May, the MILF declared a unilateral cessation of hostilities for 48 hours. The GRP continued their military operation. They demanded the MILF lay down their arms and release the hostages, claiming that the MILF and Abu Sayyaf are acting in concert. Hostilities resumed in Matanog and other municipalities in North Cotabato. In May 30-31, the GRP-MILF peace panels met in Cotabato City where the GRP panel presented a political package that included a draft bill amending RA 6734 (ARMM Organic Act). In May 31, while the peace panels were meeting, MILF Camp Bushra was bombed, and the Philippine flag was raised in a mosque there.

June

In June 1, the MILF agreed to consider the government's offer of "meaningful autonomy", but no ceasefire was declared. In June 2, the government urged displaced people to return to areas designated as "zones of peace", where the government had taken control after fighting with the MILF. In June 15, the MILF central committee decided to withdraw from talks. The Malaysian Foreign Minister assured President Estrada that the OIC was not inviting the MILF to the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Kuala Lumpur on June 29, but noted that it may be represented at phases of the meeting not restricted

to OIC members. The MILF presented its position paper for the first time at an Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting, which ended with a resolution calling on both panels to return to the negotiating table.

July

In July 9, the AFP declared it captured the MILF main camp Abubakar in Matanog Maguindanao following at least one week of air and ground assaults. In July 10, Estrada visited the camp, raised the Philippine flag there, and feasted on lechon and cases of beer. He announced that all of MILF's 46 camps have been taken over by government. In July 12, MILF Chairman Salamat Hashim declared jihad against the Philippine government.

August

Arrest warrants were issued against MILF leaders. In August 21, MILF disbanded its peace panel days before expected peace panel meetings.

September

In September 22-24, the MILF 16th General Assembly confirmed their decision to withdraw from peace talks and endorsed Hashim's declaration of jihad. In 30 September, the government announced that it has withdrawn criminal charges against the MILF leadership, offering amnesty and safe passage.



January 2001. The EDSA revolution that ousted then president Joseph Estrada.

October

In October 6, the first of a number of corruption allegations against President Estrada emerged. In October 16, OIC mission team from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Somalia, Senegal and Brunei looked into the implementation of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement between Philippine government and the MNLF.

December

The government held an amnesty in Cagayan de Oro, and some 800 MILF fighters allegedly exchange weapons for a pardon and \$290. The MILF claimed the ceremony included no real MILF fighters, but instead local civilians.

2001

January

In January 21, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took oath as president of the Philippines following the ouster of Estrada. During the ceremony, Arroyo also declared an "all-out peace" policy.

February

President Arroyo appoints the members of the GRP peace panel to negotiate with the MILF. In February 7, Philippine Congress approved House Bill 7883 and Senate Bill 2129 as Republic Act 9054, supplanting RA 6734 or the ARMM Organic Act. In February 20, President Gloria Arroyo declared the suspension of military operations (SOMO) against the MILF to encourage a resumption of peace talks, but did not agree to the MILF demand to withdraw from camps overtaken during Estrada's rule. In February 24, the ceasefire was broken as the AFP and MILF accused each other of launching attacks.

March

In March 13, President Arroyo named Misuari as Special Envoy to the OIC. The MNLF and MILF met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In March 24, the General Framework of Agreement of Intent was signed in Kuala Lumpur by then Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, then MILF vice chair for military affairs. In March 30, RA 9054 comes into force.

April

In April 3, the MILF declared a "suspension of offensive military action" against AFP forces, reciprocated by the government. In late April, the MNLF 15-Man Executive Council was formed in defiance to the leadership of Nur Misuari and chose MNLF Vice Chairman Hatimil Hassan as Chairman of the Executive Council. Misuari, however, remained ARMM governor.

June

In June 19-22, peace negotiations were held in Tripoli, Libya. On June 22 an Agreement on Peace was signed by GRP peace panel chair Jesus

Dureza and MILF peace panel chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim. The clustered six issues and concerns were again regrouped into three aspects; namely, 1) Security Aspect - International Monitoring Team (IMT), Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH), Local Monitoring Team (LMT), and Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG); 2) Relief and Rehabilitation Aspect - Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA); and 3) Ancestral Domain Aspect: this aspect covers four strands: Concept, Resources, Territory, and Governance. By July 24, a week of GRP-MILF peace negotiations was held in Port Dickson, Malaysia to flesh out the June agreements.



Nur
Misuari

August

In August 7, the MNLF Executive Council and the MILF signed an Agreement on the General Framework for Unity in Putrajaya, Malaysia. On the same day the government and MILF peace panels signed a Joint Communiqué and Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement of Peace of 2001. In August 14, the plebiscite on an expanded ARMM was held. Marawi City and Basilan with the exception of Isabela City voted to join the ARMM.

October

Peace negotiations were held in Selangor, Malaysia. In October 18, the GRP and MILF signed a Manual of Instructions for Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs).

November

In November 19, Misuari was accused of rebellion after attacks on security posts in Jolo by MNLF fighters. The next day, President Arroyo issued a preventive suspension barring him from exercising his powers as ARMM governor. In November 24,

he was arrested in Malaysia. In November 26, MNLF Executive Council member Parouk Hussin was elected ARMM Governor, a post he assumes in January.

December 20

The Philippine government and MNLF signed a Joint Communiqué to recognize the progress in the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement and the need to sustain its progress.

2002

January

In January 7, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza took Misuari from Subang Jaya, Royal Malaysian Air Force Base and brought him to the detention bungalow in Sta. Rosa Laguna. In January 12, The CCCH, tasked with supervising the implementation of the ceasefire, met for the first time.

February

Skirmishes resumed in various parts of central Mindanao.

March

President Arroyo suspended formal peace talks with the MILF.

April

Geneva Call persuaded the MILF to sign a deed of commitment against use of landmines after a meeting at a MILF camp in Maguindanao.

May

In May 6, Manila and MILF signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia a Joint Communiqué on the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates and kidnap-for-ransom groups operating in Mindanao. In May 7, the Implementing Guidelines on the Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Development Aspects of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001 was signed in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur.

In May 8-9, the MNLF and MILF held a first meeting of the Joint Coordinating Council of the Bangsamoro Solidarity Conference (BSC) in Kuala Lumpur and agreed to send a joint delegation to the 29th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the organization of the Islamic Conference on June 27 in Sudan.

June

The MILF's project implementing body, the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), was set up to "lead, manage and determine" rehabilitation and development projects in the conflict-affected areas.

July-September

In July 2, President Arroyo announced that the MILF's former headquarters Camp Abubakar will become an army base named Camp Datu Sinsuat. Members of Local Monitoring Team were appointed as per the GRP-MILF agreements in 2001, and a series of local workshops were held in various parts of central and western Mindanao. The BDA also conducted a series of planning workshops.

November

In November 6, Jesus Dureza denied that the USA was to list the MILF as a terrorist group, after reports to the contrary following a meeting between Philippine and US government officials.

December

In December 28, government peace chairman Jesus Dureza and panel member Irene Santiago admitted during a meeting with the members of Mindanao media that a peace agreement was expected to be forged within the first quarter of 2003 to avoid "politicization" of the peace process.

2003

January

In January, 20 MILF Chairman Hashim Salamat wrote US President George W. Bush seeking support for the Moro Nation. "We are therefore appealing to the basic principle of American fairness and sense of justice to use your good offices in rectifying the error that (sic) continuous to negate and derogate the Bangsamoro People's fundamental right to seek decolonization under the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960. For this purpose, we are amenable to inviting and giving you the opportunity to assist in resolving this predicament of the Bangsamoro People."

February

In February 10 the government peace panel presented the draft final peace agreement with the MILF to congressional leaders. On February 11 (the day of the Eid'ul Adha), Philippine government

forces stormed the Buliok Complex in the town of Pikit, in Cotabato Province. Efforts to get the ceasefire committees to meet on February 12 failed as the MILF declined to attend the meeting before government troops move out. In February 19, President Arroyo approved a draft peace proposal.

March

In March 4, a bomb exploded at Davao International Airport. The MILF condemned the act but charges of multiple murder and frustrated multiple murder were filed against Hashim, Vice-Chair for military affairs Al Haj Murad Ebrahim (also MILF peace panel chair), Vice-Chair for political affairs Ghazaali Jaafar, and spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

In March 27-28, the government and MILF peace panel representatives met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Jesus Dureza (GRP) and Lanang Ali (MILF) signed a Joint Statement on March 28, reiterating their commitment to resume formal peace negotiations and to honor and implement past agreements.



**Jesus
Dureza**

April

In April 2, a bomb exploded at Sasa Wharf in Davao City and in April 24, MILF fighters attacked the town of Maigo, Lanao del Norte.

May

In May 4, twenty-two (22) people died in an MILF bomb attack in Siocon. Manila called off the May 9-11 exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur. In May 9, GRP peace panel Chair Jesus Dureza resigned, claiming he wanted to focus his efforts on development in Mindanao. In May 10, a market place in Koronadal City, South Cotabato was bombed. The government immediately blamed the MILF.

In May 13, President Arroyo warned the MILF that she will recommend that the USA put them on their list of terrorist organizations if they do not end attacks on civilians by June 1. In May 14, the OIC officially recognized ARMM governor Parouk Hussin as chair of the MNLF. In May 17, Arroyo declared a war of "will and vision" against the MILF and ordered "selective attacks" on "embedded terrorist lairs" in central and western Mindanao. In the evening of the same day, Arroyo departed for a state visit to the US, and returned a week later having secured US\$356m in defense and counterterrorism aid. In May 28, the MILF announced a unilateral 10-day ceasefire beginning June 2, which was welcomed by Arroyo. The next day the MILF was involved in an attack on Carmen town, North Cotabato.

June

In June 12, the MILF extended its ceasefire for another 10 days. In June 10, Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita, named as chair of the government peace panel, announced that the government will withdraw its offer to resume peace talks if MILF chair Salamat Hashim does not act as chief negotiator for the MILF.

In June 22, the MILF extended its ceasefire indefinitely and requested a matching gesture from the military. Hashim issued a policy statement dated June 20 "rejecting terror as a means to resolve differences". The government welcomed the move but urged Hashim to declare a permanent ceasefire and reiterated its call for him to personally head the MILF peace panel.

In June 24, the government announced that following meetings of the peace panels GRP-MILF talks will resume in Malaysia and Hashim will lead the MILF negotiators and sign any resulting agreements.

July 13

Death of MILF Chairman Sheikh Salamat Hashim. Al Haj Murad Ebrahim assumed the post as chairman and Information Chief Mohagher Iqbal took over the chairmanship of the MILF peace panel.

2004

In December, the discussions on ancestral domain, the last of the three major agenda items aside from security and rehabilitation, were divided into four strands: concept, territory, resources and governance.



**Mohagher
Iqbal**

2005

MILF stated it was considering four governance possibilities in the negotiated political settlement: federal, commonwealth, association of free states and independence.

2006

May

In May 17 to 22, the OIC delegation, headed by Ambassador Sayed El-Masry, Adviser to the Secretary-General, was in the Philippines to look into the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement it brokered. The delegation, accompanied by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, was in Mindanao from May 18 to 21. Ambassador El-Masry told civil society representatives in Davao City late evening of May 19 that they hope to have the tripartite meeting in July 2006, hopefully with MNLF chair Nur Misuari in attendance. In May 22, in the Joint Communiqué issued, the Philippine government and the OIC agreed that there is "a need to review the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement as it enters its 10th anniversary with the tripartite participation of the GRP, OIC and the MNLF and that a high level tripartite meeting in Jeddah be set as soon as practicable for such purpose."

September 6-7

The impasse of the peace talks started during the 13th exploratory talks over the issue of territory when the GRP's recognition of the 613 Muslim-dominated barangays was conditioned on undergoing a constitutional process.

December 1

A Question and Answer (Q&A) session was conducted by the GRP-MILF peace panels to respond to the impasse in their talks.

2007

February

In February 2, Peace Process Undersecretary Ramon Santos, Marine Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino and 23 members of their delegation were not allowed by MNLF Commander Ustadz Habier Malik to leave his camp in Bitan-ag, Panamao, Sulu. Santos said they arrived at Malik's camp at 3 p.m. for some turnover rites and a discussion of a social development package for them and were supposed to leave at 4:30 p.m. when Malik asked about the tripartite meeting among the Philippine government, MNLF and the OIC which was originally intended for July 2006, reset to September then December and on February 6 to 8 and reset again for a still unspecified date.

In February 4, at 3:30 p.m., Santos and his colleagues finally stepped out of the MNLF camp after Malik got an assurance the much-delayed tripartite meeting would be held after the May elections. They denied they were hostages.

April

In April 13, heavy fighting erupted in Sulu between government forces and a group of MNLF commanders led by Ustadz Habier Malik. In April 15, the OIC issued an urgent appeal to the Philippine government and the MNLF to declare a ceasefire. In a four-paragraph statement endorsed by the OIC's Senior Officials' Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu reiterated to the two parties to "abide by the provisions of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement in letter and spirit and to resume negotiation in good faith for the full implementation of that Agreement." By April 21, said hostilities triggered the evacuation of some 50,000 residents from eight towns.

July 9

A lower court Judge Winlove Dumayas allowed jailed Misuari (representing the MNLF) to attend a

tripartite meeting in Saudi Arabia which will assess the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the Philippine government and MNLF. The MNLF accused the government "of failing to implement key provisions of the pact, particularly those pertaining to the development of conflict areas in the southern region of Mindanao". Misuari, however, failed to leave for failure to present a "sovereign guarantee" to return from the Saudi government.

August 27

Another Q&A was conducted by the GRP-MILF peace panels to respond to the impasse in their talks.

September 25-26

The Q&A session was converted to Special Meeting.

October 23-24

The two parties agreed on the land base part of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (the ancestral domain).

November 6

MNLF chair Nur Misuari was granted permission to attend the tripartite meeting with the Philippine government and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from November 10 to 12. Misuari's petition to travel to Jeddah, where he lived in exile from the early 1970s to 1996, was granted by Judge Winlove Dumayas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 59 in Makati City on condition he would not, among others, engage in any political or other activity that would be inimical to the Philippine government, while abroad, and he would return by November 13.

November 9

Nur Misuari was not allowed to leave for Jeddah for failing to submit a "sovereign guarantee" from Saudi Arabia that he would return to the Philippines immediately after the November 10 to 12 meeting in Jeddah, according to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza.

November 10 to 12

The 1st Tripartite Meeting among Philippine government, MNLF and OIC was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Sayed Qassim Al-Masry, the OIC's Special Envoy for Southern Philippines, said that while no timetable has been set to complete the review of the 1996 "Final Peace Agreement," he



Logo of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

foresees "two or three more sessions." The parties in their two-page Communiqué set January 14, 2008 (moved later to February) as the date for the next Tripartite Meeting, to discuss the progress reports from the five joint working groups they created.

The five joint working are on the Shari'ah and Judiciary; the Special Regional Security Force and Unified Command for the Autonomous Region in Mindanao; Natural Resources and Economic Development issues; Political system and representation; and Education. These are the same issues that are listed in Phase 2 of the Agreement. The working groups will have three members each from the Philippine government and the MNLF and their meetings will be attended by representatives of the OIC's Peace Committee for Southern Philippines (PCSP).

November 14-15

The peace talks resumed with the conduct of the 14th Exploratory Talks. The Maritime Areas of the BJE have been settled: Internal waters (15 kilometers from shoreline with full BJE jurisdiction) and Territorial waters (joint jurisdiction, authority, and management or resources in favor of the BJE).

Joint Statement Among the consensus points on ancestral domain that the two panels agreed upon were: the "joint determination of the scope of the Bangsamoro homeland based on the technical maps and data submitted by both sides; measures to address the legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people arising from their unjust dispossession and/or marginalization; Bangsamoro people's right to utilize and develop their ancestral domain and ancestral lands; and economic cooperation arrangements for the benefit of the entire Bangsamoro people."

December 15

The MILF peace panel refused to meet its government counterpart in Kuala Lumpur as scheduled (December 15-17) because the government draft of the MOA-AD on the coverage of the ancestral domain did not contain much of the consensus points agreed earlier by both parties. Furthermore, the GRP panel inserted a provision that everything must undergo constitutional process.

December 20

Judge Winlove Dumayas, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 59, denied Misuari's petition for bail as he will remain under house arrest in New Manila,

Quezon City. The court however, granted the bail petition of Misuari's 7 co-accused, at P100,000 each.



2008

January-February

Tens of thousands of people participated in the peace and prayer rallies organized by the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS) and other civil society groups in the cities of Cotabato, Marawi, General Santos City, Iligan, Lamitan, Jolo and Pagadian, calling the GRP and MILF peace panels to return to the negotiating table.

February

In February 4, eight people had been massacred by government troops in Barangay Ipil, Maimbung, Sulu. In February 9, some 10,000 people, including key local government officials, gathered outside the Jolo municipal hall, condemning the massacre. Weeks later, the soldiers who perpetrated the crime were exonerated by the military.

February 14 to 16

The 2nd Tripartite Meeting among Philippine government, MNLF and OIC was held in Istanbul,

Turkey. The meeting with an agreement to formulate "possible proposals" to amend RA 9054, which ensures the full implementation of the 1996 FPA. In line with the opening statement of the OIC Secretary General in the Jeddah Tripartite Meeting, the parties were urged "to submit a consolidated, unified report, which would include consensual solutions for existing problems," related to issue of non-implementation of the 1996 accord.

The parties agreed in the Istanbul meeting, among others, that the five (5) Joint Working Groups are given mandates to work at formulating possible proposals to amend the RA 9054 to ensure the full implementation of the 1996 FPA. Experts may be invited to assist in the exercise of their mandates. The 5 JWG's was created during the first tripartite meeting in Jeddah and were tasked to review and assess the five key points of the 1996 peace agreement signed in Tripoli, Libya. These are the Shari'ah and judiciary; special regional security force and the unified command for the ARMM; natural resources and economic development issues; political system and representation; and education. A progress report on the work of the JWG's would be submitted by May 1 to meet the deadline set by the 3rd Session of the Tripartite Meeting, which will be held on May 12 to 15.



Parouk
Hussin



Muslimin
G. Sema

April 1

Nur Misuari, jailed on rebellion charges in the Philippines, was "removed" as chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front. Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema was "elected" as new chairman of MNLF in an assembly in Pagadian City. It was the second time in nearly a decade that Misuari, who founded the MNLF, was "ousted" by his own commanders.

In 2000, Misuari was also ousted by his Foreign Affairs chief Parouk Hussin, who along with Sema and other senior leaders, made up the so-called Council of 15. Sema's group previously appointed Misuari as chairman emeritus, but he rejected the position.

The Council of 15 accused Misuari of being incompetent as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Hussin, who later became ARMM governor, was also ousted as MNLF chair last year after the Council of 15, disgruntled over his leadership, put back Misuari as the group's leader.

April 14-19

OIC Secretary General Eklemmeddin Ihsanoglu ordered Ambassador Sayyed Kassem Al-Masry, special envoy to Mindanao peace process to settle the MNLF leadership row, also as preparatory to the 3rd Tripartite Meeting in Manila on May 26-29, 2008.

April 25

Executive Judge Winlove Dimayas of Makati Regional Trial Court 59 ordered release of Nur Misuari on bail (P50,000). The Organization of the Islamic Conference had earlier asked the government to free Misuari ahead of May 26-29 talks in Manila on the implementation of the 1996 accord amid complaints it was not being fully enforced.

April 28

Documents in the media showed the Philippine military wanted to boost its artillery in case violence breaks out when Malaysian peacekeepers start withdrawing in the following month from Mindanao. In a letter to the defense department Brigadier-General Jerry Jalandoni, the military's logistics chief, said he wanted an "emergency procurement" for nearly 1.6 billion pesos (\$38 million) worth of artillery and explosives "in view of the crisis situation that may develop in Mindanao". Malaysia was to start withdrawing in stages the 41 unarmed soldiers it had deployed in Mindanao since 2004 amid complaints from Kuala Lumpur that long-running peace talks between Manila and MILF were stuck in stalemate.

Military chief General Hermogenes Esperon said the procurement of nearly 1,500 rockets used by helicopters, more than 16,000 rounds for 105mm

howitzers and 70,000 rounds of 81mm and 60mm mortars was routine. "There's no crisis," Esperon said. "The procurement is part of our regular build-up. The armed forces must always be prepared for any contingency. "But in his letter, Jalandoni asked the defence department to scrap the usually drawn-out bidding procedure for thousands of howitzer and mortar rounds, rockets and grenades in favour of an "emergency procurement" through negotiation.



**Hermogenes
Esperon**

April 30

Due to alleged presence of Abu Sayyaf elements, military indiscriminately bombarded Kagay, Indanan, Sulu, near the acknowledged MNLF Camp Marang. Residents believed the operation was not aimed at the Abu Sayyaf but was intended to provoke the MNLF loyalists in the area "to join the fray to justify possible re-arrest of Misuari". A huge bomb crater was seen just a few feet from the MNLF camp. Sitio Marang was acknowledged to be an MNLF area.

May 10-29

Malaysian members of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) including Major General Datuk Mat Yasin Bin Mat Daud, the head of mission left in a phased withdrawal of troops. This drew statements from civil society groups on possible resumption of hostilities between government troops and the MILF.

May 15

Philippine marines and MILF members clashed in Sitio Sellangan, Barangay Baguindan, Tipo-Tipo, Basilan past 2 p.m., triggering displacements of civilians.

May 17-18

MNLF officials met in Tripoli, Libya and signed "Tripoli Declaration on Unity and Reconciliation of the MNLF Leadership". The sole purpose of the meeting was to reach consensus and final agreement to resolve issues of contention among the MNLF groups with the noble aim of achieving unification, reconciliation, and solidarity. Misuari was not present in the meeting but sent two representatives, including Ustadz Shariff Zain Jali, his spiritual adviser.

Days later, Misuari's MNLF factions would acknowledge that sending two representatives to the meeting but said they have yet to decide if it would adopt the May 18 "Tripoli Declaration on Unity and Reconciliation of the MNLF Leadership."

May 21

The MILF welcomed the formation of a six-man transition leadership and unification committee (TLUC) leading to the unity of the MNLF into one single organization.

May 22

The deployment of the Marines in Basilan particularly in Tipo-Tipo municipality (where the main force of the MILF are located) "with no coordination", was criticized by the MILF as a dangerous act and a provocation.

May 23

Nur Misuari expressed support for federalism in an MNLF peace summit held at Rizal Memorial Colleges (RMC), Davao City. He ended his speech with challenge to Malaysia to bring the Sabah claim to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the United Nations' justice arm located in The Hague, The Netherlands.



MNLF Peace Summit 2008.

May 25

Misuari announced in Davao City that the 3rd Tripartite Meeting among the Philippine government, MNLF and OIC scheduled on May 26 and 27 in Manila will not push through. He said Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda and the Indonesian Ambassador to Manila were "unable to push through" a preparatory meeting of the joint technical working group.

Reports attributed the postponement to the new developments on the MNLF side last month, including the alleged ouster of Misuari as MNLF chair and his replacement with Cotabato City mayor Muslimin Sema, Misuari's secretary-general during the 1992-1996 peace negotiations with the Philippine government, led to the postponement as the committee was allegedly confused on which MNLF to deal with.

May 29

MILF deputy chairman for military affairs, Aleem Abdulaziz Mimbantas, called on all MILF members "especially its military components to be ready at all times in order to confront the enemy, who are out to create 'chaos and confusion' to cover up their insincerity in the current peace talks and lack of 'political will' to solve the Moro Problem."

June 1

MNLF Founder Nur Misuari visited the grave of Datu Udtog Matalam, Sr., founder of the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM), in Pagalungan, Maguindanao. The MIM was the first Moro-led group that launched rebellion in Mindanao against the government of then President Ferdinand Marcos. Matalam was the first governor of the former Empire Cotabato. The "empire" was broken into the cities of Cotabato, General Santos, Tacurong, Koronadal, and provinces of Sarangani, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Shariff Kabunsuan.

June 4

Secretary Rodolfo Garcia, Chairman of the GRP peace panel said during the launching of the Bangsamoro Management and Leadership Institute (BMLI) in Camp Darapanan that the ongoing study of the government's legal team on the consensus points of the ancestral domain is about to be concluded. "At this point the study on the consensus points as part of government's exercise of due diligence is now at a point of concluding stage," Garcia said.

Rodolfo
Garcia



June 14

MILF and MNLF leaders met at Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Shariff Kabunsuan to formally approve of the creation of the Bangsamoro Solidarity Conference (BSC), which will function as coordinating body between the two Moro groups and others who wish to join later. Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, chairman of the MILF, headed the MILF group and Cotabato Mayor Sema the MNLF side. Other MILF and MNLF leaders present were Ghazali Jaafar, Mohagher Iqbal, Bobby Alonto, Sheikh Muhammad Muntassir, Abebakrin Lukman, Melham Alam, Otto Salem, and others.

June 16

Jesus Dureza became Press Secretary while newly-retired Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was appointed as Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. Many viewed this decision of the Arroyo administration as negative, arguing it confuses peace with militarization. But the MILF did not "attach any great significance" to the development, saying the two belong to the "same banana" and "makes no difference in the peace process".

The chief of staff of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), Sammy Al-Mansoor, said some MILF military commanders had become restless in the light of the worsening situation of the GRP-MILF Peace Talks. "The dilly-dallying of the government in the talks," he said, "is feeding on the appetite of these commanders, who, most of them, detested the peace talks right at the start."

June 25

Armed encounter between the CAFGU/CVO members of Aleosan and Local MILF Forces in the village in Sitio Tubak, Pagangan, Aleosan North Cotabato. No casualties recorded.

June 28

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in the cities of Cotabato, Tacurong, General Santos, Isabela (Basilan), Pagadian, and the municipalities of Jolo (Sulu) and Pikit (North Cotabato) to participate in the simultaneous mass rallies for peace organized by Mindanao Alliance for Peace (MAP).

Meanwhile, a consolidated local MILF forces retaliated and attacked CVO/CAFGU in Barangay Bagolibas and Pagangan, Aleosan. Hundreds of

families evacuated to Nalapaan and Poblacion Pikit.

July 1

Joint Forces from 40th IB PA and CAGU/CVO of Aleosan conducted an operation in Sitio Tubak, Pagangan, Bagolibas and Nalapaan due to reports that there were sighting of MILF forces. Joint Team of GRP-MILF CCCH and IMT headed by Gen. Sealana, Toks Ibrahim and IMT representatives respectively able to pacify the conflict. While they were planning to put JMAT, the CVO/CAGUs were reluctant to allow the peace committees to conduct ground investigation.

When the CCCH and IMT reached the area of encounter, they learned that the actual firefight took place at Sitio Tubak, Pagangan. Aleosan, an interior area approximately two and half kilometers from the highway. It was true that the firefight started around 8:30 a.m. but it was triggered by the coming in of the elements of the 40th IB to Sitio Tubak, a place resided by some 20 local MILF fighters led by Commander Taps.

July 5

The deployment of the Army's 2nd Scout Rangers Battalion near MILF's Camp Darapanan was criticized by certain groups, arguing it may lead to skirmishes and massive displacement of civilians who will be caught in the crossfire. Col. Juliato Ando, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the troop movement was for the upcoming ARMM elections. He said 7,000 troops are to be deployed for the ARMM elections. He added that the movement "does not mean we're gearing up for a war in Mindanao," but that the military is only "maintaining defensive position."

July 8

Thousands of government troops were brought to the coastal towns of Maitum in Sarangani, and Palimbang and Lebak in Sultan Kudarat without informing the MILF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

July 9

Midsayap Manuel M. Rabara criticized the "show of force" by MILF fighters in his town and their alleged harassment of residents in several villages of the locality. "If it's necessary for our constituents to carry

firearms, we (local officials) have to encourage them. We wouldn't allow MILFs to capture our town. If they will violently enter our barangays our people have no other recourse but to fight back. We need to protect ourselves and our properties."

Meanwhile, a navy vessel docked in the evening near Brgy. Milbuk, Palimbang; 1 company of 38IB, two tanks and six 105mm howitzer.

July 12

Commenting on the proposed arming of civilians in North Cotabato particularly Midsayap, Muhammad Ameen, chairperson of the MILF secretariat, said to defend oneself is human right. He said there is nothing unusual on this because proliferation of loose firearms among non-Moros in the guise of being members of paramilitary forces in North Cotabato is an open secret especially in areas controlled by Cotabato Vice Governor Manny Piñol. "The proposal is just to add legitimacy to what has been tolerated long time ago by the government and the military."



Manny
Piñol

July 15

Some 40 armed members of the CVOs of Aleosan conducted clearing patrol in the morning near the border of Bago Libas and Sitio Tubak. Accordingly, the position of the culprits of the strafing or indiscriminate firing was somewhere at the border of Bago Libas and Sitio Tubak. Exodus of civilians from neighboring barangays ensued for fear of being caught by the crossfire. Mass evacuation took place but no firefight erupted.

Local government report revealed that the number of displaced families had reached to 300. Firefight ensued but prompt action of the GRP-MILF CCCH, IMT and Bantay Ceasefire had immediately defused the gun battle. Unfortunately, there were some missing comrades from the side of the CVO. Without informing the ceasefire bodies, the CVOs went back

to the area of encounter to look for the missing. North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, through the media, called for ouster of BGen Reynaldo Sealana, Chief of the Government Ceasefire Committee.

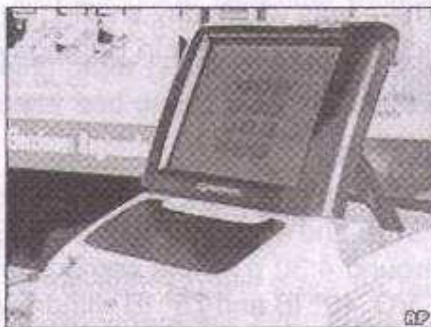
July 17

MILF peace panel chair Mohagher Iqbal asked government peace panel chair Rodolfo Garcia at the end of their talks in Kuala Lumpur to have the August 11 ARMM elections postponed "in deference to the GRP-MILF peace process."

July 19

Two days after Iqbal's proposal, Speaker Prospero Nograles said the House of Representatives was not inclined to postpone the August 11 ARMM elections. "What's the factual and legal basis to postpone? To postpone we need at least two weeks to process bill which will amend. Senate must concur. It's not certified urgent by Palace. Too late to postpone in ordinary legislative process. Commission on Elections has not asked us to postpone. If they are not ready, they will. They didn't ask us," he said.

The 2008 ARMM election was the first to be automated in the Philippines.



As president of the Lakas Party, he said he "shall defer to and consult our ARMM loyal allies, the Ampatuans. Should they advice that postponement will speed up the Mindanao peace process, I shall personally try to fast track move to postpone." Nograles said, as speaker, he called for Mindanao congressmen and women caucus in the House on July 29, 2 p.m. after the SONA to decide collectively to postpone or not. Meanwhile, CVO/CAFGU attacked MILF position in Sitio Tubak, Pagangan, Aleosan. 4 CVOs killed in fierce firefight.

July 22

Aleosan Mayor Loreto Cabaya Jr. assembled his CVO/CAFGU forces that reached to tree truckloads and conducted operation in Sitio Tubak, Pagangan.

Before they reached the area, they were waylaid and ambushed that resulted to undetermined number of killed and wounded; an old woman caught in crossfire.

Five days after Iqbal's request, Arroyo announced her endorsement of the postponement of the August 11 ARMM elections. Dureza said the "cabinet consensus" to postpone the regional polls was reached after Arroyo met with Cabinet members and ARMM officials in Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Kabunsuan.

July 23

Province of North Cotabato (led by Vice Governor Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol) filed a petition (GR No. 183591) in Supreme Court seeking relief: (1) for the issuance of temporary restraining order (TRO) and, in the alternative, writ of preliminary injunction against public respondents to formally signing the MOA; (2) requiring the latter to furnish petitioner the copy of the MOA inclusive of its annexes; and, (3) prohibiting it to formally sign said MOA pending its disclosure to the public as well as its public consultation and hearing.

July 24

Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr., presidential adviser on the peace process would meet the MILF in Malaysia for the final date on the signing of a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD). Starting this day, the CVOs and other civilians took up their arms, heeding to the call of some officials of the province to arm themselves and fight the MILF elements in a mortal combat.

5 Muslim lawmakers filed House Bill 4832 which proposes to amend Section 1 of Republic Act 9333 - the law that sets the August 11 ARMM elections - by replacing the date of the ARMM polls to coincide with the May 2010 national elections. Those who authored the House Bill 4832 are Representatives Faysah Dumarpa of Lanao del Sur, Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, Munir Arbison of Sulu, Mujiv Hataman of party-list Anak Mindanao, and Pangalian Balindong of Lanao del Sur. Senator Miguel Zubiri backs out on filing a similar bill. Meanwhile, Province of North Cotabato (led by Vice Governor Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol) filed an Urgent ex parte Manifestation as well as Extremely Urgent Manifestation for the issuance of Writ of Preliminary Injunction and/or TRO.

July 24-25

With August 5 as target date for signing scheduled and the names of invitees and observers already listed, a serious clash (described by many as "collapse") happened in the finalization of the MOA-AD. The MILF said the GRP was undoing major settled issues.

July 25

The fights escalated to Brgy. Dualing and Popoyon in Pikit, North Cotabato.

July 26

Civil society groups urged the government and MILF to "stay the course and not get distracted from the desperate, though debilitating gasps of spoilers and those who thrive on unpeace."

The GRP panel flew back to Manila in the morning and met with the Cabinet Security Cluster. Headlines bannered GRP-MILF talks "collapse" after an impasse Friday (July 25) night in KL. Government had reportedly changed its position and wanted to delay the plebiscite until after the signing of a final peace pact, instead of after the agreement on ancestral domain as they had agreed upon. CVO/AFP posted in Sitio Tubak, sitio Buluan, Bagolibas and Dualing after a day long firefight. At 8:30 a.m. AFP started shelling with 105mm howitzers exploding in Sitio Tubak coming from AFP detachment in Pagangan. Seven out of 10 shells exploded and 3 did not explode.

July 27

GRP panel flew to Kuala Lumpur in the morning with Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr., presidential adviser on the peace process, accompanying the team. The MOA-AD was initialed at around 8:20 p.m. Aside from government peace panel chair Rodolfo Garcia, MILF peace panel chair Iqbal and Malaysian facilitator Datuk Othman Abdul Razak, Esperon was also asked to initial the final draft of the MOA-AD.

Meanwhile, Moro residents of Barangay Mampurok, Pikit were surrounded by CVOs and denied them of leaving the area. During the night the women were gathered in a mosque while the men are gathered outside in another area. The skirmishes escalated in Barangay Baliki, Popoyon and Sitio Ranso and in the afternoon the AFP-CAFGU position were overrun by MILF forces.



Gloria
Macapagal-Arroyo

July 28

14th Congress resumed session with the State of Nation Address (SONA) of President Arroyo. Arroyo said she will "ask Congress to act on the legislative and political reforms that will lead to a just and lasting peace during our term of office" but did not mention what the reforms were. House Speaker Nograles said, Arroyo's position was consistent: to leave the decision to Congress. Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said Arroyo asked Congress to enact laws in support of peace process. He said there would be a Congressional meeting on postponement and MOA. There was whole day shelling by AFP with 105mm howitzers exploding in Barangays Baliki, Popoyon and Sitio Ranso.

July 29

AFP reinforcement of the 40th IB PA arrived from 75th IB and attempted to recover Baliki, Popoyon. At around 4:30 p.m. the composite team of CAFGU/CVO, 40th IB and 75th IB withdrew and was pursued by MILF forces up to national highway. In this firefight around 50 houses were burned in Brgy Baliki. It resulted to complete evacuation of civilians in Barangays Dualing, Takepan, Nalapaan, Pagangan and Bagolibas.

July 30

Zamboanga City (led by Zamboanga Mayor Celso Lobregat) filed a petition (G.R. No. 183752) in Supreme Court which contains substantially the same allegations and causes of action with the July 23 petition of North Cotabato. Meanwhile, the firefight was already at the national highway in Brgys. Takepan and Dalingoen, Pikit.

The GRP-MILF CCCH and IMT headed by General Sealana attempted to intervene but denied by the CAFGU/CVO and the municipal officials of Aleosan.

Instead, the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of North Cotabato passed a resolution calling for removal of Sealana as Chief of the Government Ceasefire Committee.

July 31

The House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms approved on July 31, the bill that seeks to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Seventeen lawmakers were for the postponement. Radio dzXL reported that those opposed to proposals to postpone the ARMM elections are: Senate President Manuel Villar II, Senate President Pro-tempore Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr, Sen. Richard Gordon, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Sen. Pia Cayetano, Sen. Mar Roxas II, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

August 4

A resolution in Supreme Court was promulgated consolidating the July 23 North Cotabato petition and July 30 Zamboanga City petition; issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO) directing public respondents to cease and desist from signing the MOA.

Meanwhile, an LGU-supported anti-BJE rally was held in Zamboanga City. Their positions: (1) this is a division based on religion; (2) will there be two mayors in Zambo?; (3) where will city taxes be paid?; (4) what will happen to churches in BJE barangays in Zambo?; (5) no transparency on BJE; and (6) for MI to split the Moro.

August 5

The signing of the MOA-AD was put on hold. MILF peace panel chair Mohagher Iqbal said issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) by the Supreme Court on the eve of the supposed signing of the MOA-AD is not a setback on the part of the MILF.

"We have initialed the text of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain last July 27. The pace is a done deal. It is binding on the contracting parties who are obliged to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of their agreement."

Lawyer Musib, MILF peace panel member said the Supreme Court "may have been ill-informed as to what actually transpired."

"The MOA is a product of a long process of tedious negotiations and took about four years. This has been reviewed and discussed by both parties," he said, adding the signing supposedly scheduled today is "a mere formality."

Datu Michael Mastura, a senior member of the panel, said the law on treaties says the agreement is binding on both parties and it is the duty of both parties to refrain from doing any act that would defeat the purpose of the agreement.

The MILF said in a statement that "it makes no difference whether a signing takes place or not. The signing ceremony is a mere formality, the absence of which does not diminish, invalidate or cancel the MOA-AD."

The MOA-AD is the textual version of the consensus points arrived at by both Parties through a long process of negotiations beginning in 2004 as a consequence of the inclusion of Ancestral Domain as the third aspect in the MILF-GRP Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001."

"This makes the MOA-AD binding and executory on the contracting parties. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her State of the Nation Address on July 28, 2008, had alluded to this momentous event by acknowledging the resolution of the Ancestral Domain issue."

The Supreme Court's TRO "is a product of the ongoing political intramurals within the GRP; therefore it is not binding on the MILF, which is a revolutionary liberation organization of the Bangsamoro people."



Datu Michael Mastura

"By aborting the signing ceremony, the GRP has utterly discredited itself before the international community. Even if the GRP attempts to assuage the diplomatic and political faux pas caused by the last-minute cancellation of the signing ceremony, it is now clear to the international community, let alone the Government of Malaysia which was hosting the aborted historic event, and the Bangsamoro people that the GRP does not possess the capability of entering into a peace agreement. Therefore the firm commitment and political will to honor signed agreements with the Moro liberation movement by the GRP is under suspect of doubt by the international community."

The MILF, it added, has "gained a significant moral and political victory in this latest chapter of its historic struggle to resolve the conflict in Mindanao on the negotiating table."

"From such a victory, the MILF, as its policy dictates, will still pursue the peace process to bring an end to the conflict without, however, losing sight of alternative means to achieve freedom and justice for the Bangsamoro people."

The diplomatic community including members of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference has been invited to the supposed historic signing in the ballroom that was being readied yesterday for 350 guests.

Ambassador Sayed El Masry, Adviser to the OIC Secretary-General and Special Envoy to the Southern Philippines, has also arrived to also affix his signature on the MOA under the heading, "as endorsed by."

**Mujiv
Hataman**



**Satur
Ocampo**

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema is also here as representative of the MNLF. Four representatives, among them Mujiv Hataman of Anak Mindanaw and Bayan Muna's Satur Ocampo were also around.

The Philippine government and MILF peace panels invited at least 50 guests each.

August 8

MILF elements started withdrawing from areas they had occupied in North Cotabato.

August 9

Luwaran reported that an unnamed member of the MILF peace delegation said MILF "lost nothing" in the aborted MOA-AD signing August 5 due to intercession of the Supreme Court and issuance of temporary restraining order (TRO) as "the Philippine government is the one that is put to shame and embarrassment before the international community" adding that it is its fault of the government by treating the negotiations lightly.

He said the mishandling of the Moro problem, as shown by the recent debacle in Malaysia, by the Manila government is now elevating the stakes to global concerns, citing a similar scenario during the Algerian Revolution in the 50s.

First, President Charles de Gaulle granted substantial autonomy to the Algerians to the stiff opposition of the "colons" or migrants from France. Twice his generals, aided by colons, spearheaded a coup de etat but twice it failed. Later, de Gaulle agreed to grant independence to Algeria in 1956.

The MILF said the document was not signed, but the ill effects of the aborted signing ceremony befall completely on the shoulder of the government.

He reiterated that to the MILF, the MOA-AD is done deal after the two parties initialed the document in July 27 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as third party facilitator, also signed the document.

He said that initialed document, citing opinions of legal luminaries, is as good as signed, and therefore, binding on the contracting parties.

However, he admitted that it could have been better if the signing ceremony had also taken place, saying



**Kristie
Kenney**

the foreign dignitaries, lawmakers, non-government organizations (NGOs), and members of the media are good witnesses that could greatly add to the legitimacy of the document.

Among those foreign dignitaries already in Kuala Lumpur were US ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney, Ambassador Sayed ElMasry, adviser to Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General and Special Envoy for Peace Process in Southern Philippines, the Ambassador of Australia to the Philippines, and the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines.

August 10

MILF and Marine encountered at barangay Baas, Lamitan city, along highway between Lamitan and Tipotipo. Started at 4:50 p.m., causing massive evacuation; a child was caught in crossfire. AFP and MILF armed fights in Pikit, North Cotabato triggered massive evacuation amid rain. Philippine Air Force planes bombed suspected MILF positions; ground troops unleashed cannons and mortars against MILF elements.

August 11

Senator Mar Roxas, president of the Liberal Party, said he would ask the Supreme Court to nullify the MOA-AD between the government and the MILF for being "unconstitutional", saying it will "create a state within a state". He said the MOA-AD was a product of "coercion" by the MILF, thus, "a negotiation in bad faith."

In a 22-page motion for intervention, Roxas echoed concerns of the North Cotabato province and Zamboanga city that the terms of the MOA-AD are matters of public concern, thus, covered by Section 7 of the Bill of Rights which guarantees the right

of the people to information on matters of public concern.

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon and United Opposition spokesman Adel Tamano shared Roxas' stance on the MOA-AD.

In a 22-page petition, Zamboanga City Mayor Lobregat, Vice Mayor Climaco, and Congressman Fabian sought a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the MOA. They corroborated an earlier petition filed by North Cotabato Governor Sacdalan and Vice Governor Piñol similarly seeking disclosure of the pact and questioning the provinces inclusion in the BJE.

Named respondents were the peace-negotiating panel as represented by Rodolfo Garcia, Leah Armamento, Sedfrey Candelaria, Mark Ryan Sullivan and Hermogenes Esperon, presidential adviser on peace process.

Residents of barangays Pananag, Kanalo, Lumasal, and Katubao in Sarangani Province started to evacuate. About 3,000 families evacuated in Aleosan, Pikit, North Cotabato. AFP and MILF confrontation reached the highway, making it impassable. Classes were suspended.

The first automated ARMM elections were conducted. Datu Zaldy Ampatuan was re-elected as ARMM Regional Governor. Some congressmen revealed through the media that the early reports on the proposed cancellation of the elections were only part of confidence building measures of the Arroyo administration, re the GRP-MILF peace talks.

August 12

Four OV-10 bombers dropped Int'l bombs in Brgy Tapodok, Pikit. OV-10 dropped bombs at evacuees in Brgy Ulandang, Midsayap and Makasendeg. According to reports, MILF's Commander Bravo was already positioned in Christian areas in Lanao del Norte.

August 13

Senator Mar Roxas visited Isulan, Sultan Kudarat Province and told all provincial and municipal local government executives (LGU) to oppose the deal up to the Supreme Court.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon expressed concern over the "unfolding humanitarian crisis as a result of fighting in central Mindanao between the Philippine military and the MILF."



**Ban
Ki-Moon**

In a statement released by his spokesperson in New York, Ban appealed for restraint, protection of all civilians, and for the provision of speedy humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

August 14

Respected journalist Marites Danguilan Vitug claimed the peace process is a casualty of public's low trust in President Arroyo.

The Provincial Governors of Mindanao and Palawan assembled in a caucus at Pryce Plaza in Cagayan de Oro City, calling for:

1. That regardless of party affiliations or religious persuasions, we remain united for peace and progress amidst the controversy arising from the proposed Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) prepared and initiated by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) Peace Panel and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which seeks to provide the preliminary parameters for the establishment of genuine and enduring peace in Mindanao.

2. That we fully support the peace process and the efforts of the GRP Peace Panel in pursuing measures that would finally put an end to more than 35 years of fratricidal conflict that have claimed the lives of so many people, destroyed billions worth of properties and brought untold sufferings to innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of the longest-running secessionist war.

3. That we appeal to the Supreme Court of the Philippines to resolve the issues related to the MOA-AD with dispatch to minimize misunderstanding and conflict among stakeholders and partners for peace.

4. That we call upon the GRP Peace Panel and MILF to adopt actions and decisions relative to the MOA-AD within the legal framework and the rule of law, and make them the foundation for subsequent agreements.

5. That we enjoin the GRP Peace panel to conduct wider and comprehensive consultations with local government units (LGUs) to help resolve issues that would affect the peace process in Mindanao.

6. That we urgently ask all our colleagues, particularly the leaders of the country at all levels, to exercise utmost restraint, prudence and statesmanship in their actions and statements pertaining to the present controversy considering that the MOA-AD is not the final Peace Agreement and will be always be to Congressional actions.

7. That we condemn in strongest terms any form of violence perpetrated by any group, party or individual that will undermine the pursuit of peace which tend to escalate the conflict and derail the Peace Process and that we call upon the National Government to apply the full force of the law against these violators.

8. That we call on the National Government and the concerned LGUs to immediately provide all the needed assistance to the displaced and affected civilians in the areas of conflict.

Present Governors, Vice Governors, and Congressmen

1. Gov. Mamintal Alonto Adiong – Lanao del Sur
2. Gov. Erlpe John M. Amante – Agusan del Norte
3. Gov. Jum M. Akbar – Basilan
4. Gov. Aurora Cerilles – Zamboanga del Sur
5. Gov. Douglas Cagas – Davao del Sur
6. Gov. Miguel Domiguez – Sarangani
7. Gov. George Hofer – Zamboanga Sibugay
8. Gov. Oscar S. Moreno – Misamis Oriental
9. Gov. Loreto Leo S. Ocampos – Misamis Occidental
10. Gov. Maria Valentina Plaza – Agusan del Sur

11. Gov. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo – Camiguin
12. Gov. AbduSakur Tan – Sulu
13. Gov. Rolando Yebes – Zamboanga del Norte
14. Gov. Joel Reyes – Palawan
15. Vice Gov. Elvis dela Merced – Dinagat Island
16. Vice Gov. Norris C. Babiera – Misamis Oriental
17. Gov. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo – Lanao del Norte
18. Cong. Bobby Dimaporo – Lanao del Norte
19. Gov. Jesus Sacdalan – North Cotabato

Cabinet Secretaries:

1. Sec. Gilberto Teodoro, DND
2. Sec. Gabby Claudio
3. Sec. Hermogenes Esperon
4. Sec. Rodolfo Garcia

Guests:

1. PNP Region 10 Chief Teodorico Capuyan,
2. PDDG Emmanuel Carta – PNP NHQ
3. City Police Director Isagani Genabe

August 17

Army detachment in Brgy Salome, Maasim, Sarangani was harassed by alleged MILF forces resulted to the killing of 2 CVOs & 1 army at 2:30 a.m. MILF fighters repeatedly attacked barangays Simsiman and Matilak, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato a little past noon.

August 18

Thirty-three (33) civilians were killed in Lanao del Norte's Kolambugan, Kauswagan and Maigo towns and two in Maasim, Sarangani, in attacks blamed on the MILF.

In the morning, just hours after the attack in Lanao del Norte, Arroyo appeared on television condemning the attack and ordering the AFO and PNP to "to defend every inch of Philippine territory against MILF forces, and immediately restore peace in the affected areas in Lanao de Norte. We will not tolerate — I will crush any attempt to disturb peace and development in Mindanao."

Report said unidentified armed men were in full control of Kauswagan-Linamon-Kolambugan Highway in Lanao Norte making Iligan-Pagadian road impassable.

August 19

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said the MOA-AD would be renegotiated. Ambush on the group of Ameril Umbra Kato in Sitio Kubakuba, Tumagingting, North Kabultalan resulted to the killing of one MILF force and lost of 2 firearms.



Eduardo
Ermita

August 20

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the MOA-AD in its present form must undergo review and "there's no need to strike down the MOA-AD." Starting at 8:00 a.m. AFP bombarded with 105mm howitzers the Barangays Duaminanga, Sambulawan and Lumopog Midsyap North Cotabato, and Montay and Kabuntalan Datu Piang. Civilians scammed to different areas and mostly confined at a school building in Montay. AFP conducted offensive on MILF positions in Tapihan 1 & 2, Kuloy, Mamasapano and Lab and Dapiawan in Datu Saudi that ensued a fierce fight. 2 army officers killed and Lt Bautista wounded. The shelling started at 8:00 a.m. and thousands of civilians concentrated in Montal elementary School.

August 20-21

Thirty army troopers killed and 10 captured in Pantekan, Cooperative areas and Mahad-din and Dapiawan, Datu Saudi. 18 elements of AFP encircled and killed by MILF forces in Damatulan, Midsayap, North Cotabato after a fierce fight. This was followed by bombardment of the areas of 105mm howitzers. AFP bombing in civilian communities in Barangay Lomopog continues hitting some residents.

August 21

Malacañang said it will review the GRP-MILF peace process, particularly the MOA-AD. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself announced in Pasay

City a "shift" in the government's peace efforts: Any subsequent engagement with all armed groups will focus on disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation (DDR).

Muslim Legal Assistance Foundation filed an "intervention-comment" with the Supreme Court asking it to lift the TRO on the MOA-AD and give the peace process a chance to work. Human rights group Amnesty International said creating civilian militias in defense of possible attacks from armed groups will only worsen the violence in Mindanao.

Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), a group documenting human rights violation, has blamed people whom, it said, have "narrow interests in politics and hawkish attitude towards the Moro issue in Mindanao" as the culprits behind the renewed hostilities.

Muslim and Catholic religious leaders from the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Marawi and Iligan and the two Lanao provinces expressed their "desire for a permanent genuine and lasting peace" but at the same time sought that "justice be meted out to those responsible" for the attacks in Lanao del Norte.

Opposition senators questioned the motives and roles of the United States, Malaysia and other countries pushing for the GRP-MILF peace pact, especially in the creation of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity as stipulated in the MOA-AD. They argued that Malaysia is endearing itself with the MILF to protect Sabah, and the US has colonial interests. They said they do not want Mindanao to be the next Kosovo.

Whole day bombardment was conducted by AFP in the areas of Damatulan, Lumopog and Kadigasan areas using 105mm howitzers and OV-10 bombers hitting civilian communities. A jetfighter was used.

At around 7:00 a.m., MILF forces occupied highway in Brgy. Buayan, Datu Piang and captured one army soldier and two CAGFU elements. At 6:30 p.m. convoy of army troopers were ambushed at Sitio Pansol, Tambunan, Guindulungan that resulted to the destruction of one simba tank and one 6 x 6 army truck and left 14 soldiers wounded.

An estimate of 2,000 evacuees converged at the municipal plaza of Datu Piang. An old man and 18

year - old boy hit by shrapnel from 105mm Howitzer in Northern Kabuntalan. In the night, a supposed group of Moro rebels with 31 followers, led by a certain battalion commander Alvin Conto, surrendered to the 104th Infantry Brigade headquarters in Ma. Cristina, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

August 22

Manila demanded the MILF to surrender Kato and Macapaar and offered P10 million bounties for their capture.

Government troopers closed the Cotabato City-General Santos City road around 6 a.m. Road blocks were set up at the boundary to prevent Umbra Kato's forces from running out of Maguindanao.

The MILF disowned the 31 fighters who surrendered to the military on the night of August 20, following attacks on Lanao del Norte province last August 18. MILF chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the 31, led by one Alvin Conto, are local Higaonons and Christians who briefly joined the MILF as part of an "immersion" experience.



A senior couple seeks refuge in an evacuation center where convenience is not an option in Pikit, North Cotabato Province after armed conflict between the government and the MILF forces erupted.

Two days after Ermita talked about "further review," Dureza said government will no longer sign the MOA-AD, whatever the Supreme Court decides on.

Datu Michael Mastura, lawyer and historian and senior member of the MILF peace panel said shifting to DDR is a wrong advice to Arroyo: In negotiations,

DDR is normally done after a peace deal is sealed; it is a formula for humanitarian tragedy and international intervention.

Lawyer Israelito Torion, chief legal counsel for North Cotabato provincial officials, gave the Supreme Court three other reasons, aside from the need to set the parameters for the GRP-MILF peace talks, on why it should rule on the MOA-AD. These are: (1) the MOA-AD violates in the 1987 Constitution, (2) paramount public interest is involved, and (3) government may make the same mistakes again in the initialed MOA-AD. Government forces did the (as what the press described) "biggest aerial bombardment in nearly a decade" in Maguindanao.

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon, Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano and Sen. Mar Roxas thumbed filed a joint opposition to the MOA-AD with the Supreme Court, wanting the court to rule on the substance of the MOA.

**Franklin
Drilon**



Mar Roxas

**Adel
Tamano**



Government troops began operations to run after MILF commander Abdul Rahman Macapaar alias Bravo, the one accused for the attacks in two Lanao del Norte towns, with up to 3,000 soldiers and police forces scouring the mountains. The move to hunt for Bravo was hastened when the MILF refused to heed government's demand for the rebel group to

surrender Bravo and Ameril Umbra Kato, said to be the one responsible for similar earlier attacks in North Cotabato. Fighting escalated in the provinces of Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan and North Cotabato, sending thousands of villagers fleeing from their homes.

August 23-24

Government troops captured one MILF satellite camp in Maguindanao after three days of fighting at the province's boundary with neighboring Cotabato, military officials said. Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, head of the military's operations center in Camp Aguinaldo, said the military had been shelling and bombarding camps surrounding the main base of MILF commander Ameril Umbra Kato since August 21, prompting the MILF members to abandon one in Datu Piang, Maguindanao. He said 17,056 families, or 84,669 people, have been evacuated from different areas in Maguindanao and Cotabato since the fighting started.

August 23

MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad urged the government to stop the offensive, warning it could imperil the years-long peace process and escalate violence. AFP assaulted MILF positions in Barangays Pananag and Lumasal in Maasim, Sarangani. The AFP was waylaid by the MILF Forces; a fierce encounter ensued and lasted after one hour of firefight at 6:00-7:00 a.m. Seven AFP elements including one officer were killed. MILF sustained 1 captured alive and one wounded.

Thousands of families from Brgy Pananag, Lumasal and Katubao evacuated and now housed in different scholls in Pob. Massim, Sarangani. Armed elements believed to be MILF Forces harassed a military detachment in Barangay Bagan, Guindulongan, Maguindanao. The encounter ensued from 6:50-8:00 p.m. After the encounter AFP elements from Campo Salbu, Datu Unsay conducted indiscriminate shelling in Barangay Muti, Guindulongan and adjacent Barangays. Accounts of civilian casualties of AFP Bombardment on civilian communities:

August 24

Malacañang rejected Ebrahim's call to halt the offensive and continued the air and artillery strikes and attacks against MILF elements. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Hermogenes Esperon

Jr. and Press Secretary Jesus Dureza, called on MILF Chairman Al-Haj Murad Ebrahim to either surrender "historically recalcitrant" commanders Ameril Umbra Kato, Abdulla Macapaar (also known as Bravo) and Pangalian or order the MILF members to stand aside in the government troops attempt to pursue the three accused of instigating attacks and atrocities in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, and other parts of Mindanao, "otherwise, the peace negotiations will not continue."

Ebrahim expressed "sadness over the situation (in Lanao del Norte). We do feel it should not have happened," adding the attack was "triggered by the frustration and outrage by some of our commanders who became impatient over the peace process."

Ebrahim said they "respect the views of government" but "would like to remind also that the MILF is a revolutionary organization and the relationship between the MILF and the Philippine government is only through the peace process."



**Al-Haj Murad
Ebrahim**

Ebrahim also said the group wants to keep the peace process going but will not allow renegotiation of the MOA-AD stressing it is a "done deal." He said that "attempts to stop the signing of the agreed text of the MOA-AD through a petition for temporary restraining order are other forms of suppression of Bansamoros parallel to domestic political decisions."

Mohamad Akmad Mahmud alias Commander Tigre Deputy Base Commander for Southern Mindanao Front BIAF-MILF was apprehended at around 12:00 noon by elements of R2 under Major Zuriaga and turned over to the PNP in Camp Lira in General Santos City.

Photographs taken by the Philippine Daily Inquirer inside the 64th Infantry Battalion Camp in Datu Saudi Ampatuan in Maguindanao showed several American soldiers in T-shirts and fatigue pants, one of them carrying a "remote-controlled spy plane".

August 25

Army trained 120 new Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in Aleosan and neighboring Midsayap and Carmen towns in North Cotabato. Opposition senators questioned the role and motives of the United States, Malaysia and other countries in the Mindanao peace process, particularly in the creation of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE). DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno ordered the arming of civilians and plan to distribute 20,000 pieces of firearms to: Davao del Sur through PNP (90 pcs Shotgun), Jose Abad Santos (30 pcs. shotgun), Don Marcelino (30 pcs. shotgun), Malita (30 pcs. shotgun).

August 26

Lt Col. A.A. Caro issued firearms to civilians in: Davao oriental (120 pcs. shotgun), Pantukan, COMVAL (40 pcs. shotgun), and Sarangani Province (30 pcs. shotgun). PAF C-130 delivering ammunitions and soldiers reinforcement in the military operation Maguindanao province hit by lightning in the sea of Barangay 76-A Davao City. Pieces of soldier's body parts and documents were found by fishermen, combat shoes and army IDs of Sgt. Petronilo Felix Fernandez of the Elite wing Division PAF were also recovered.

August 27

AFP bombardment using 105mm howitzers and Bomber planes continued in Barangays Liong Kabuntalan and Balanaken in Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

August 28

Malaysia agreed to extend the IMT's stay for three more months.

August 31

MILF said a government offensive against two of its commanders (Ameril Umbra Kato and Abdulla Macapaar) blamed for mounting attacks in several provinces had struck MILF offices as well as those of a joint ceasefire team. "Communal and ethnic war is not farfetched with the prevailing situation," the MILF said in its website (www.luwaran.com).

September 1

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the MILF was no longer confident it could strike a final peace agreement under the Arroyo administration and the MILF might wait for the next president after the 2010 elections. The Fighting continued as Ramadan began.

September 2

Armed Vigilantes in Mindanao, calling themselves the Reformed Ilaga Movement said they would help the government fight against the MILF. According to reports, the "Reformed Ilaga Movement" also carries the name New Jerusalem Movement (NJM), a revival of the Christian Fanatical Group in the 60's such as ILAGA (Ilonggo Land Grabbing Association), The Muslim FREE Mindanao, TADTAD, The Crusade of the children of GOD, the Shepherds, and other Christian vigilante groups who are committed to carry out ethnic cleansing against the Muslims in Mindanao.

September 3

The government dissolved its peace negotiating panel. Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said they did it amid the shift in their strategy in dealing with the MILF. "We will now negotiate with people at the communities," a move he described to be "a long process of building blocks."

September 4

Senator Mar Roxas rejected the MILF proposal for him to head the GRP peace panel, saying that such offer should have been addressed to the Executive branch of government.

September 5

MILF Vice Chair for Political Affairs Ghazali Jaafar issued a statement saying that the MILF will not disband its peace panel and will "continue to uphold the Peace Path as still the best way forward to address the centuries-old Bangsamoro problem in Mindanao" even as the Philippine government has disbanded its peace panel and shifted to a new "peace paradigm" of negotiating with armed groups only within the context of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Meanwhile, the government has raised the bounty on the heads of MILF commanders Ameril Ombra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar (also known as Bravo) to P10 million each.

September 6

"It's right that we should just change the components of the government peace negotiators," Senator Mar Roxas said, adding, "we do not trust them (GRP peace panel) anymore, you see they gave part of our country, part of Mindanao they let go."

"So let us change the negotiators, let us change the negotiating parameters, but we must not throw the framework that houses the peace process."

"The root of the problem is poverty, lack of opportunity, and inadequacy of the service of the national government, our weak justice system," he said, adding, that when ordinary people could not get justice, "they take the law in their own hands and do atrocities."



Ghazali
Jaafar

September 8

Senators opposed renewed calls by political allies of President Arroyo to amend the 1987 Constitution and adopt a federal form of government, saying this is only a ruse to cover up the Arroyo administration's failure to sign a peace accord with the MILF.

The government offered the MILF P25 million in combined bounty for Ameril Ombra Kato, Abdulla Macapaar and Aleem Sulaiman if the MILF would surrender them. P10 million each for the capture of Kato and Macapaar (Commander Bravo); another P5 million for Pangalian.

MILF peace panel chief Mohagher Iqbal said the MILF "commanders are not for sale" and to give

them up would be "unethical". He said that the MILF would investigate the three commanders to determine the validity of government accusations that they raided towns in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte and slaughtered scores of civilians. "If they indeed committed any violations, then it's the MILF that would punish them," Iqbal said, adding that the best way to resolve the ongoing conflict in Central Mindanao region was through the joint committee on the cessation of hostilities.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada reiterated his call for an all-out war against the MILF, saying that peace in Mindanao remained his priority.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Central Mindanao launched simultaneous air and ground attacks against the group of Umbra Kato in Datu Piang, a town in Maguindanao.

OV-10 airforce plane dropped a bomb at a boat carrying a family of civilians trying to flee their area for safety in Brgy. Tee, Datu Piang, Maguindanao Province. Killed in this incident were Daya Manunggal Mandi (45) and his children Aida (18 and pregnant); Bailen (10); King (7); Dayang (5); and Faiza (1). Guiamaludin (13) sustained major wounds but survived but has to be confined to a hospital for medical treatments.

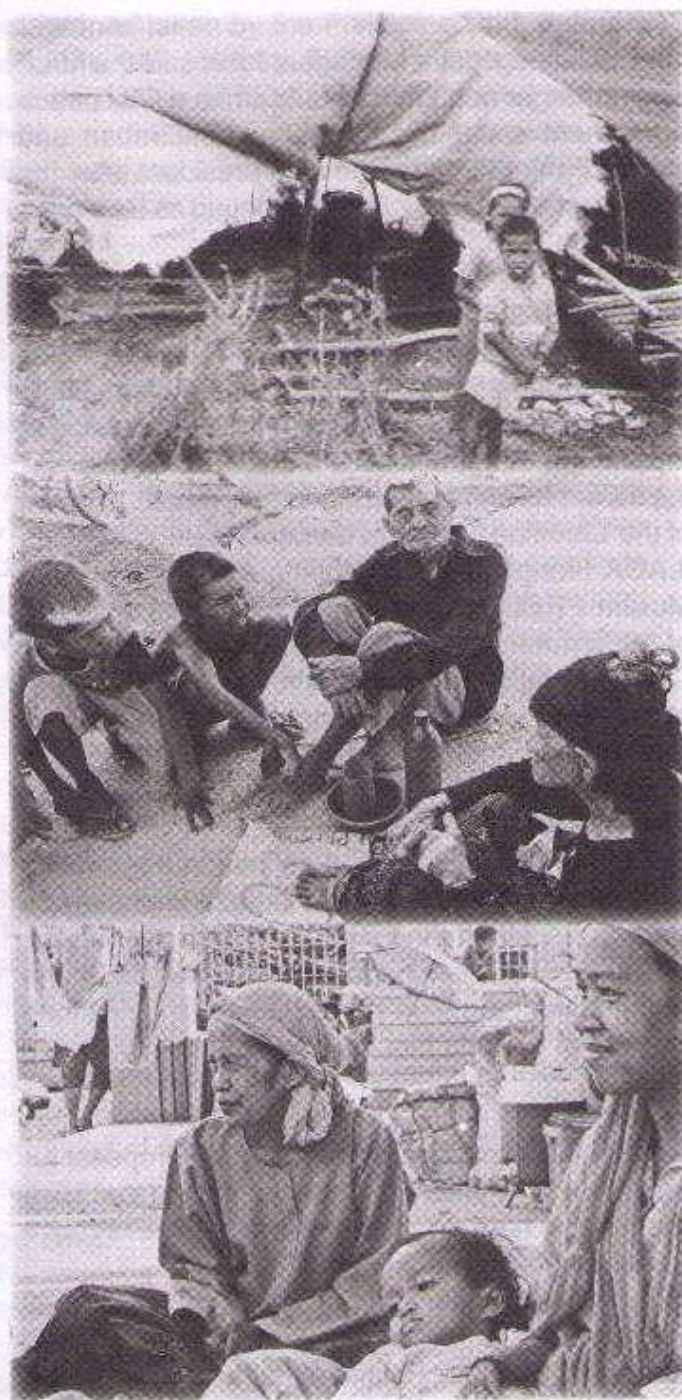
September 9

Malacañang ordered an investigation into a military air assault on suspected MILF positions that killed six civilians. Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said they want to see if the attack stemmed from an "extreme need" that forced the military to ignore "operational guidelines."

The MILF scored Sen. Mar Roxas for refusing to accept its challenge to head the government peace panel. MILF deputy spokesman Khaled Musa said Roxas could have engaged MILF negotiators in an open debate to discuss the solution to the centuries-old Moro problem in Mindanao.

"Why are you refusing our challenge? Be a real man and get out of your mother's lap," Musa said in a statement on the MILF website.

"You want to become president with your biases, prejudices, and hatred for the Moros as part of your platform of government?" he added.



Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte expressed opposition of the creation of anti-Moro vigilante groups saying it cannot solve the ongoing conflict in Mindanao.

September 10

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. hit the government for treating the Mindanao problem as a "tribal issue." In his presentation of his federalism bid before the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, Pimentel said the wrong treatment of the problem in Mindanao is the reason for the continuing Moro problem.

Ronaldo
Puno



Meanwhile, the MILF accused Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno of playing blind, deaf and dumb to the existence of the Ilaga "vigilante" group. MILF deputy spokesman Khaled Musa said the resurrection of Ilaga is real, and the government is "tolerating if not funding or arming it."



Members of the ILAGA Group.

"North Cotabato Vice Governor (Emmanuel Piñol) is the main pillar of this group. Senator (Manuel II) Roxas, a presidential aspirant in 2010, actively support(s) the group; and defeated gubernatorial candidate and former mayor of Carmen, North Cotabato Roger Taliño and Congressman Lala Taliño-Mendoza are excluded from the Reform Ilaga Movement," Musa said in a statement on the MILF website.

Musa claimed this came from "declassified" A-1 intelligence information linking several government officials to the Ilaga. Musa, who originally lived in Tulunan town in North Cotabato and still has lands there, is himself a victim of the Ilaga depredations in the 1970s.

Puno earlier said there was still no evidence to prove the existence of the Ilaga, which claimed to arm its members to defend villages from the MILF.

In his "declassified intelligence report," Musa said the man who claimed to be the spokesman of the Reformed Ilaga Movement (RIM) and in mask was a former town mayor of North Cotabato.

He said the former mayor uses three assumed names: Kumander Toothpick, Commander Ka Willy, and Commander Mike Santiago.

Musa also said two prominent personalities were online from Manila during the interview who assured the vigilante group of their support.

"The names of both personalities cannot be disclosed for strategic reasons. One is working with the government right now and the other, a former elected official of North Cotabato," he said.

Also, he said the owner of the biggest ricemill in North Cotabato arranged the interview with Commander Willy at his residence in the first district of North Cotabato.

He also said each member of the RIM is tasked to recruit 10 people. Only the 10 in each cell know each other. Each of the 10 in the cell should again recruit ten, who will be known among themselves.

The Ilaga movement has a hit squad to kill members who will leave the group and squeal on its secrets, and kill MILF fighters, the rebel website said.

September 11

The day President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told a lobby group from Mindanao that government will no longer sign the initialed MOA-AD with the MILF, the MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim said they will "never renegotiate" the MOA-AD because as far as the MILF is concerned, "the MOA-AD is a done deal".

Commander Adan Abdullah, brigade chief of the MILF's 106th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), accused the Army of manipulating facts by forcing witnesses to execute affidavits that claimed the death of a family of six in Datu Piang, Maguindanao last September 8 was due to stray bullets and not by bombing by the Air Force.

Abdullah said among those the Army convinced into executing an affidavit is the barangay chairman of Barangay Te. He has not, however, given the name of the barangay chairman.

But Col. Julieta Ando, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, dismissed the allegation and pointed out that the regional office of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) already sent investigators to Barangay Te "without us influencing them."

September 12

Rep. Luz Ilagan of Gabriela Partylist has urged the Arroyo administration to punish the military personnel involved in the killing of six civilians in Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

In a press statement, she said that "to stop the human rights violations against innocent people in conflict areas in Central Mindanao, the President should immediately order a ceasefire and a pull-out of AFP troops from the region".

Luz
Ilagan



"What the AFP did is a violation of the International Humanitarian Law which states that the State is responsible for the protection of the people living in conflict areas and not participating in the war," said Ilagan.

The military, she added, "are especially accountable for the safety of women and children who are the most vulnerable targets of war".

"As it turned out, it is the supposed guardians who violated this law," she said.

September 12

Joint forces from various outfits of the Philippine Army attacked forces of the 107th Base Command of the MILF about 12:30pm while performing their Friday congregational prayer inside a Mosque at Daliao, Maasim, Sarangani.

September 14

A homemade bomb exploded before dawn at a market area in Kiamba, Sarangani province.

There were no casualties and no group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the military quickly blamed the MILF.

September 15

Australian Ambassador to Manila Rod Smith said Australia hopes that people displaced by the conflict [in Mindanao] are able to return home as soon as possible, and the efforts of the government, donors, and NGOs can resume the focus on peace-building and development.

Earlier, European Union Ambassador to Manila Alistair MacDonald and French Ambassador to Manila Gerard Chesnel called on the GRP and MILF peace panels to return to the negotiating table and stop the fighting that has displaced almost half a million people.

Queenie, actor Robin "Abdulazis" Padilla's daughter, Muslim convert, joined the clamor for a stop to the fighting between government forces and the MILF. Speaking in Talayan, a town in Maguindanao affected by renewed hostilities and where she led a distribution of relief goods for evacuees, Queenie Padilla appealed to both parties to stop fighting to give way to rehabilitation work.

Queenie was with the staff of her father's Liwanag ng Kapayapaan Foundation and officials of the Office of Muslim Affairs-National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, Hermogenes Esperon, presidential adviser on the peace process said, Mindanao peace talks will remain suspended as the government has yet to reconstitute its peace panel that would negotiate with the MILF.

He said although they have the initial list of the members, the recomposition was not a priority but "providing security to our countrymen especially those in Mindanao".

MILF Chairman Al Hadj Murad Ebrahim ordered the MILF base commands to defend themselves, saying that the government is engaged in a "reprisal operation against Muslim communities."

The MILF brushed aside claims by military officials that they have captured MILF camps in fighting in Maguindanao.

"This is a total fabrication and wild claim. How could the military capture an MILF camp when it has totally abandoned fixed camping since 2000 when ousted President Joseph Estrada launched all-out war policy against the MILF," MILF deputy spokesman Khaled Musa said in a statement on the MILF website. Musa said the military claimed the MILF camp it captured was allegedly one of several run by rebel commander Ameril Umbra Kato.

September 16

Presidential adviser on the peace process Hermogenes Esperon Jr. confirmed that GRP is considering replacing Malaysia, which has brokered the talks since 2001, could be replaced by the 57-member group of Islamic nations in the talks with the MILF.

September 17

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim described the MOA-AD as "a victim of the political crisis" that the Manila government faced with. He said it was "unfortunate that the political crisis in Manila" would lead to the collapse of the supposed agreement that was a product of four years of negotiation since the government and the MILF have been talking peace for the past 11 years and ancestral domain was the lone agenda they had been discussing in the past four years. "Those opposing the MOA are politicians and some presidentiables who don't care about the killings in Mindanao but only their vested political interests," he said.

September 18

Army soldiers backed by helicopter gunships killed an undetermined number of MILF members in a clash and seized an abandoned rebel stronghold known as New Camp Bilal in Mt. Guarain straddling Madalum and Piagapo towns in Lanao del Sur and Munai in Lanao del Norte.

MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, warned of escalating conflict if they are forced to defend themselves against an expanding government offensive. He said the MILF does not want another Iraq, Afghanistan or Palestine in Southeast Asia but if his forces were "pushed to the wall" they would have no option but to retaliate. He called upon the international community to intercede. He said the MILF "still believe[s] that the best situation is going back to the peace process."

September 19

Speaking before a meeting of peace advocates from the Norwegian churches and the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP) delegation to Oslo, Prof. Johan Galtung, who is recognized as a world expert on conflict mediation for his engagement in 100 conflicts in 50 years, said that the Philippine government may want to consider limited federation for the Muslim areas as an option to resolve the conflict that has been troubling the region for the past few decades.

"In a successful Philippines of the future, there will be elements of federation" but that it does not mean "federal constitution for all Philippines," Galtung said. He also criticized the Philippine government for being "unprepared for the task" of negotiating peace in the Mindanao conflict, adding that the agreement it forged earlier looked good in paper but was riddled with difficulties in its implementation.



**Johan
Galtung**

Galtung also frowned on calls for ceasefire as the conflict raged, saying "ceasefire is not peace" and that it is "at most negative peace." He recognized that calls for ceasefire is being used by parties in conflict to re-arm and re-position its troops but acknowledged that it can also bring temporary relief to the local population. He stressed that for the government to put an end to the conflict in Mindanao it must get to the bottom of the conflict which is feeding on the discontent of the Muslim population. "Violence feeds on itself, but it usually starts with an unresolved conflict. In other words, (the government) have to identify the (root of the) conflict," he added.

September 26

Opposition Sen. Francis Escudero disclosed that

none of the calamity funds released by the national government ever reached Mindanao, despite huge proportions of losses wrought by the flashfloods and armed clashes.

September 27

The Commission on Human Rights' initial investigation into the deaths of six civilians in an aerial attack by Philippine Air Force planes in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, on August 15 showed the attack was not provoked by members of the MILF. This contradicted the military's claim that the MILF fired at their plane, an SF-260, leading the plane's pilot to fire back, killing the civilians. Earlier reports said helicopter gun ships were also involved in the attack.

Four civilians were fired upon by the soldiers of the 602nd Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army at Carmen, North Cotabato. The victims were walking home when they were shot by soldiers of the Philippine

Army while they were passing in front of the Headquarters of the 602nd Brigade at around 9 pm at Barangay Poblacion.

September 28

Amid fear of an escalation of sporadic fightings in Mindanao in the coming end of Ramadan, Muslim leaders and peace advocates stepped appeals for a ceasefire and resumption of the GRP-MILF peace talks. House Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur Rep. Pangalisan Balindong echoed the clamors for ceasefire in the face of the continued air strikes on suspected MILF elements that rather aggravated civilian sufferings.

September 29

The Philippine military sought for additional funding in its campaign against MILF elements. Armed Forces chief General Alexander Yano said the request for a supplemental budget had been requested through Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

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War Against Umbra Kato and Bravo

A War Against the Bangsamoro?

BY MIKE G. KULAT

The so called "surgical and calibrated operation" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) started on August 20, 2008 at the purely civilian populace in the municipalities of Kabuntalan in Sharif Kabunsuan, and Barangays of Datu Piang and Midsayap North Cotabato. The combined aerial and ground attacks using OV-10 bombers, helicopter gunships and 105mm Howitzers affected the Barangays Leong, and Montay in Kabuntalan. The bombardments, done during day and night, extended to Barangays Kadigasan, Sambulawan and Duaminanga in Midsayap and spread up to Barangays Lomopog, Dua Minanga, Balanaken and Damatulan in Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

There were no actual encounters between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces in those areas. But the operation caused the displacement of 123,324 individuals based on the records of the OCD-ARMM and World Food Program as of August 28, 2008.

This no let up "surgical operations" is meant to capture the three commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) namely; Umbra Kato, Bravo and Pangalian.



Local and International NGO representatives visit civilian's houses torched by the military.

Also on August 20, sporadic firefights ensued between the attacking AFP elements and the MILF Forces in Barangays Kuloy, Tapihan and Lepok in the town of Mamasapano. There was also an on and off fierce armed clashes in Barangays Dapiawan and Guiati in the town of Datu Saudi Ampatuan. Armed encounter also occurred in adjacent Barangays of Pusao and Pamalian in Shariff Aguak.

The rampaging AFP aerial and ground offensives shifted to the areas where the civilians are in the municipalities of Guindulongan, Talayan, Talitay and Datu Anggal in Maguindanao on September 4, 2008. This rendered thirteen Barangays as "ghost villages" with a recorded number of civilians uprooted to be 2,307 families or 13,842 individuals.

The military proudly announced capture of around a hundred or more MILF Camps throughout their so called "surgical operation" but they couldn't present any MILF



The civilians flee to safe place to avoid being caught between the warring parties.

element or any armament belonging to the MILF and much more any of their targets – Commanders Umbra Kato, Bravo and Pangalian.

The MILF, time and again refuted that they are maintaining any military camps since 2000 all out war when the AFP treacherously attacked all MILF Camps duly recognized by the government in their previous negotiation.

In all these all out military offensives, the military could hardly give proof of any body count of MILF killed except the three which was also validated in the UN Assessment Team report to NDCC as of September 14, 2008. The report states that one MILF element was killed in Basilan, one in Gayunga, Northern Kabuntalan and one killed and captured by the AFP in Barangay Daliao, Maasim, Sarangani. Those were definitely not Umbra Kato, Bravo nor Pangalian. The same report also stated seven AFP Troopers killed and nineteen wounded in action.

The AFP has all the reason to be proud of their accomplishments because the total number of civilians

uprooted as of August 28, 2008 according to OCD-ARMM and World Food Program as well as NGO reports is totaling to 431,441 individuals who left everything when they flee for safety as result of armed encounters or due to bombardment of their communities. On top of these, there were rampant looting reported in every communities left by civilians allegedly being perpetrated by the AFP Troopers like what happened in Barangay Dapiawan, Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality.

Moreover, in Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan province alone and for the period of August 14 to August 28, 2008 there were 39 civilians killed and 35 are wounded mostly from artillery shrapnel, OV-10 Bombs and some are caught between crossfire. 19 of these victims were children aged from 4 months to 13 years old and 23 women, of which two were pregnant. 25 of them were elders aged 45 - 79 years old.

The most remarkable of these atrocities to the civilians is a massacre of the Mandi family of seven members hit by a bomb from OV-10 Bombers at around 10:30 AM of September 8, 2008 while fleeing aboard a pump-boat in Barangay Tee, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao. In the incident, all the families were killed at once except for Guimaludin Mandi, 13 years old who was able to survive the ordeal.



The saddest part of this is that the attacks on civilian areas resulted to the displacements of hundreds of thousand individuals, killing of children, women, elders and damages to their properties perpetrated by the same AFP elements who are mandated by the Constitution to be the protectors. The above conducts are direct trample and violation of people's constitutional and human rights stipulated under both domestic and international frameworks. But who will prosecute them?

Ret. Army Colonel Salipada T. Ulangkaya, a veteran in the Mindanao war, wrote a public statement: "Never in my more than thirty years military career, that the AFP conducted an operation in Muslim areas during the celebration of the Holy Month of Ramadhan." This he is referring to the AFPs conduct of aerial bombardment and ground assault in Muslim communities during the observance of Ramadhan when Muslims fast the entire month as a religious obligation.

The MOA - AD

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN ASPECT OF THE GRP-MILF TRIPOLI AGREEMENT ON PEACE OF 2001

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) herein referred to as the "Parties" to this Agreement,

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities dated July 18, 1997 Between the GRP and the MILF, and its Implementing Administrative and Operational Guidelines; The General Framework of Agreement of Intent Between the GRP and the MILF dated August 27, 1998;

The Agreement on the General Framework for the Resumption of Peace Talks Between the GRP and the MILF dated March 24, 2001;

The Tripoli Agreement on Peace Between the GRP and the MILF dated June 22, 2001;

The Tripoli Agreement Between the GRP and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) dated December 23, 1976 and the Final Agreement on the Implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement Between the GRP and the MNLF dated September 2, 1996;

Republic Act No. 6734, as amended by R.A. 9054, otherwise known as "An Act to Strengthen and Expand the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)";

ILO Convention No. 169, in correlation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, and Republic Act No. 8371 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, the UN Charter, the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and internationally recognized human rights instruments; and

Compact rights entrenchment emanating from the regime of dar-ul-mua'hada (or territory under compact) and dar-ul-sulh (or territory under peace agreement) that partakes the nature of a treaty device. For the purpose of this Agreement, a "treaty" is defined as any solemn agreement in writing that sets out understandings, obligations, and benefits for both parties which provides for a framework that elaborates the principles declared in the Agreement.

HAVE AGREED AND ACKNOWLEDGED AS FOLLOWS:

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

1. It is the birthright of all Moros and all Indigenous peoples of Mindanao to identify themselves and be accepted as "Bangsamoros". The Bangsamoro people refers to those who are natives or original inhabitants of Mindanao and its adjacent islands including Palawan and the Sulu archipelago at the time of conquest or colonization and their descendants whether mixed or of full native blood. Spouses and their descendants are classified as Bangsamoro. The freedom of choice of the Indigenous people shall be respected.
2. It is essential to lay the foundation of the Bangsamoro homeland in order to address the Bangsamoro people's humanitarian and economic needs as well as their political aspirations. Such territorial jurisdictions and geographic areas being the natural wealth and patrimony represent the social, cultural and political identity and pride of all the Bangsamoro people. Ownership of the homeland is vested exclusively in them by virtue of their prior rights of occupation that had inhered in them as sizeable bodies of people, delimited by their ancestors since time immemorial, and being the first politically organized dominant occupants.
3. Both Parties acknowledge that ancestral domain does not form part of the public domain but encompasses ancestral, communal, and customary lands, maritime, fluvial and alluvial domains as well as all natural resources therein that have inured or vested ancestral rights on the basis of native title. Ancestral domain and ancestral land refer to those held under claim of ownership, occupied or possessed, by themselves or through the ancestors of the Bangsamoro people, communally or individually since time immemorial continuously to the present, except when prevented by war, civil disturbance, force majeure, or other forms of possible usurpation or displacement by force, deceit, stealth, or as a consequence of government project or any other voluntary dealings entered into by the government and private individuals, corporate entities or institutions.
4. Both Parties acknowledge that the right to self-governance of the Bangsamoro people is rooted on ancestral territoriality exercised originally under the suzerain authority of their sultanates and the Pat a Pangampong ku Ranaw. The Moro sultanates were states or karajaan/kadatuan resembling a body politic endowed with all the elements of nation-state in the modern sense. As a domestic community distinct from the rest of the national communities, they have a definite historic homeland. They are the "First Nation" with defined territory and with a system of government having entered into treaties of amity and commerce with foreign nations. The Parties concede that the ultimate objective of entrenching the Bangsamoro homeland as a territorial space is to secure their identity and posterity, to protect their property rights and resources as well as to establish a system of governance suitable and acceptable to them as a distinct dominant people.

5. Both Parties affirm their commitment to mutually respect the right to one's identity and the parity of esteem of everyone in the political community. The protection of civil rights and religious liberties of individuals underlie the basis of peace and justice of their totality of relationships.
6. Both Parties agree that the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) shall have the authority and jurisdiction over the Ancestral Domain and Ancestral lands, including both alienable and non-alienable lands encompassed within their homeland and ancestral territory, as well as the delineation of ancestral domain/lands of the Bangsamoro people located therein.
7. Vested property rights upon the entrenchment of the BJE shall be recognized and respected subject to paragraph 9 of the strand on Resources.

TERRITORY

1. The Bangsamoro homeland and historic territory refer to the land mass as well as the maritime, terrestrial, fluvial and alluvial domains, and the aerial domain, the atmospheric space above it, embracing the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan geographic region. However, delimitations are contained in the agreed Schedules (Categories).
 1. Toward this end, the Parties enter into the following stipulations:
 - a. The GRP and MILF as the Parties to this Agreement commit themselves to the full and mutual implementation of this framework agreement on territory with the aim of resolving outstanding issues that emanate from the consensus points on Ancestral Domain.
 - b. The Parties confirm their understanding that the mutual goal of reaching an agreement on Bangsamoro territory specific to mapping the outlying borders and the boundaries affecting local government units will lead to consolidation of the agreed texts on the Ancestral Domain Strands.
 - c. The Parties affirm that the core of the BJE shall constitute the present geographic area of the ARMM, including the municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in the province of Lanao del Norte that voted for inclusion in the ARMM during the 2001 plebiscite.
 - d. Without derogating from the requirements of prior agreements, the Government stipulates to conduct and deliver, using all possible legal measures, within twelve (12) months following the signing of the MOA-AD, a plebiscite covering the areas as enumerated in the list and depicted in the map as Category A attached herein (the "Annex"). The Annex constitutes an integral part of this framework agreement. Toward this end, the Parties shall endeavor to complete the negotiations and resolve all outstanding issues on the Comprehensive Compact within fifteen (15) months from the signing of the MOA-AD.

e. The areas covered by Category B are reflected on a map and list attached herein as agreed to by the Parties. Category B (the "Special Intervention Areas") refers to conflict affected areas outside the BJE which shall be the subject of special socio-economic and cultural affirmative action implemented by the Central Government pending the conduct of a plebiscite not earlier than twenty-five (25) years from the signing of the Comprehensive Compact to determine the question of their accession to the BJE. The areas reflected are subject to further negotiations by the Parties. The Annex constitutes an integral part of this framework agreement.

f. Internal Waters:

The BJE shall have jurisdiction over the management, conservation, development, protection, utilization and disposition of all natural resources, living and non-living, within its internal waters extending fifteen (15) kilometers from the coastline of the BJE area.

g. Territorial Waters:

(1) The territorial waters of the BJE shall stretch beyond the BJE internal waters up to the Republic of the Philippines (RP) baselines south east and south west of mainland Mindanao. Beyond the fifteen (15) kilometers internal waters, the Central Government and the BJE shall exercise joint jurisdiction, authority and management over areas and all natural resources, living and non-living contained therein. The details of such management of the Territorial Waters shall be provided in an agreement to be entered into by the Parties.

(2) The boundaries of the territorial waters shall stretch beyond the 15-km. BJE internal waters up to the Central Government's baselines under existing laws. In the southern and eastern part of the BJE, it shall be demarcated by a line drawn from the Maguling Point, Palimbang, Province of Sultan Kudarat up to the straight baselines of the Philippines. On the northwestern part, it shall be demarcated by a line drawn from Little Sta. Cruz Island, Zamboanga City, up to Naris Point, Bataraza, Palawan. On the western part of Palawan, it shall be demarcated by a line drawn from the boundary of Bataraza and Rizal up to the straight baselines of the Philippines.

The final demarcation shall be determined by a joint technical body composed of duly-designated representatives of both Parties, in coordination with the appropriate Central Government agency in accordance with the above guidelines.

h. Sharing of Minerals on Territorial Waters:

Consistent with paragraphs 5 and 6 of the provisions on Resources, all potential sources of energy, petroleum in situ, hydrocarbon, natural gas and other minerals, including deposits or fields found within the territorial waters, shall be shared between the Central Government and the BJE in favor of the latter through production sharing agreement or economic cooperation agreement.

i. Activities Allowed on Territorial Waters:

(1) The Parties shall have authority to carry out the following activities within the territorial waters:

- (a) Exploration and utilization of the natural resources, whether living or non-living, within the territorial waters;
- (b) Establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;
- (c) Marine scientific research;
- (d) Protection and the preservation of the marine environment;
- (e) Conservation of living resources;
- (f) Regulation of shipping and fishing activities;
- (g) Enforcement of police and safety measures, including interdiction of the entry and use of the waters by criminal elements and hot pursuit of suspected criminal elements;
- (h) Regulation and control of contraband and illegal entry of prohibited materials and substances, including smuggling; and
- (i) Such other measures as the Parties may otherwise mutually agree.

(2) Activities relating to exploration and utilization of non-living resources, as well as paragraphs (c) and (d) of the Authorized Activities will be carried out on a joint basis agreed by the Parties which may be in the form of production sharing agreements or joint development pacts.

j. Establishment of a Joint Commission:

(1) The Parties shall establish a Joint Commission, which shall elaborate the modalities for the implementation and the carrying out of the Authorized Activities and the measures adopted in cases of allegation of breach, and carry out any other functions which may be assigned to it by the Parties for the purpose of implementing the joint management of resources.

(2) The Joint Commission shall consist of one representative from each Party, who are assisted by advisers as may be needed. The conclusions of the Joint Commission shall be adopted by consensus and shall only be recommendatory in nature. Only when the conclusions of the Joint Commission are adopted by the Parties do they become binding on the Parties.

k. **Demarcation and Status of Territorial Waters:**

The demarcation and status of the BJE territorial waters shall be finally determined together with the demarcation and final status of Category B territory of the BJE.

3. From and after entrenchment of compact rights over the Bangsamoro homeland and the territorial jurisdictions for associative governance shall likewise embrace those under proclamation for agricultural and human settlements intended for the Bangsamoro people, all alienable and disposable lands, pasture lands, timberlands together with all existing civil and military reservations, parks, old growth or natural forests declared as forest reserves, watersheds, mangroves, fishponds, wetlands, marshes, inland bodies of water; and all bays, straits and channels found within the BJE.
4. All territorial and geographic areas in Mindanao and its adjacent islands including Palawan, and the Sulu archipelago that have been declared recognized, and/or delineated as ancestral domain and ancestral land of the Bangsamoro people as their geographic areas, inclusive of settlements and reservations, may be formed or constituted into political subdivisions of the Bangsamoro territorial jurisdictions subject to the principles of equality of peoples and mutual respect and to the protection of civil, political, economic, and cultural rights in their respective jurisdictions.
5. For purposes of territorial delimitation, the Parties have agreed to the joint determination of geographic areas encompassed within the territorial borders of the Bangsamoro homeland and territory based on the technical maps and data submitted by both sides as provided above.

RESOURCES

1. The BJE is empowered with authority and responsibility for the land use, development, conservation and disposition of the natural resources within the homeland. Upon entrenchment of the BJE, the land tenure and use of such resources and wealth must reinforce their economic self-sufficiency. Among the purposes or measures to make progress more rapid are:
 - a. Entry into joint development, utilization, and exploitation of natural resources designed as commons or shared resources, which is tied up to the full setting of appropriate institution, particularly affecting strategic minerals;
 - b. Stimulation of local economy by a range of mechanism, in particular the need to address unemployment and improvement of living conditions for the population in the BJE;

- c. Intensification of measures needed to uproot the cause of poverty in the BJE through responsible harnessing and development of its natural resources; and
- d. Undertaking program review of public services, industrial or trade-related and agrarian-related issues in situations of different sectors of the society in the BJE, which acquire communal character deriving from the special nature of their industry.

2. The Bangsamoro People through their appropriate juridical entity shall, among others, exercise power or authority over the natural resources within its territorial jurisdiction:

- a. To explore, exploit, use or utilize and develop their ancestral domain and ancestral lands within their territorial jurisdiction, inclusive of their right of occupation, possession, conservation, and exploitation of all natural resources found therein;
- b. To conserve and protect the human and natural environment for their sustainable and beneficial enjoyment and their posterity;
- c. To utilize, develop, and exploit its natural resources found in their ancestral domain or enter into a joint development, utilization, and exploitation of natural resources, specifically on strategic minerals, designed as commons or shared resources, which is tied up to the final setting of appropriate institution;
- d. To revoke or grant forest concessions, timber license, contracts or agreements in the utilization and exploitation of natural resources designated as commons or shared resources, mechanisms for economic cooperation with respect to strategic minerals, falling within the territorial jurisdiction of the BJE;
- e. To enact agrarian laws and programs suitable to the special circumstances of the Bangsamoro people prevailing in their ancestral lands within the established territorial boundaries of the Bangsamoro homeland and ancestral territory within the competence of the BJE; and
- f. To use such natural resources and wealth to reinforce their economic self-sufficiency.

3. The BJE, and the Central Government agree on wealth-sharing based on a mutually agreed percentage ratio in favor of the BJE through an economic cooperation agreement or arrangement over the income and revenues that are derived from the exploration, exploitation, use and development of any resources for the benefit of the Bangsamoro people.

4. The BJE is free to enter into any economic cooperation and trade relations with foreign countries; provided, however, that such relationships and understandings do not include aggression against the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; provided, further that it shall remain the duty and obligation of the Central Government to take charge of external defense. Without prejudice to the right of the Bangsamoro juridical entity to enter into agreement and environmental cooperation with any friendly country affecting its jurisdiction, it shall include:
 - a. The option to establish and open Bangsamoro trade missions in foreign countries with which it has economic cooperation agreements; and
 - b. The elements bearing in mind the mutual benefits derived from Philippine archipelagic status and security.

And, in furtherance thereto, the Central Government shall take necessary steps to ensure the BJE's participation in international meetings and events, e.g. ASEAN meetings and other specialized agencies of the United Nations. This shall entitle the BJE's participation in Philippine official missions and delegations that are engaged in the negotiation of border agreements or protocols for environmental protection, equitable sharing of incomes and revenues, in the areas of sea, seabed and inland seas or bodies of water adjacent to or between islands forming part of the ancestral domain, in addition to those of fishing rights.

5. Jurisdiction and control over, and the right of exploring for, exploiting, producing and obtaining all potential sources of energy, petroleum, in situ, fossil fuel, mineral oil and natural gas, whether onshore or offshore, is vested in the BJE as the party having control within its territorial jurisdiction, provided that in times of national emergency, when public interest so requires, the Central Government may, during the emergency, for a fixed period and under reasonable terms as may be agreed by both Parties, temporarily assume or direct the operations of such strategic resources.
6. The BJE take or profit split from total production shall be shared with the Central Government on a percentage ratio of 75:25 in favor of the BJE. All royalties, bonuses, taxes, charges, custom duties or imposts on natural resources and mineral resources shall be shared by the Parties on a percentage ratio of 75:25 in favor of the BJE.
7. The legitimate grievances of the Bangsamoro people arising from any unjust dispossession of their territorial and proprietary rights, customary land tenures, or their marginalization shall be acknowledged. Whenever restoration is no longer possible, the GRP shall take effective measures or adequate reparation collectively beneficial to the Bangsamoro people, in such quality, quantity and status to be determined mutually by both Parties.

8. All proclamations, issuances, policies, rules and guidelines declaring old growth or natural forests and all watersheds within the BJE as forest reserves shall continue to remain in force until otherwise modified, revised or superseded by subsequent policies, rules and regulations issued by the competent authority under the BJE.
9. Forest concessions, timber licenses, contracts or agreements, mining concessions, Mineral Production and Sharing Agreements (MPSA), Industrial Forest Management Agreements (IFMA), and other land tenure instruments of any kind or nature whatsoever granted by the Philippine Government including those issued by the present ARMM shall continue to operate from the date of formal entrenchment of the BJE unless otherwise expired, reviewed, modified and/or cancelled by the latter.
10. The Parties recognize an immediate need to establish a five-member BJE economic-expert mission (the "Mission") bearing in mind that the functioning of the economy and the operation of institutions involve financial and other resource management as well as parallel or complementary means, by which the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) will manage and administer resources acquired for the above purposes, especially in coordinating strategies and programs for cooperation in all fields.
11. The Mission acts as a link in the conduct of BJE's associative parallel relationships and shall cooperate fully with all organizations involved in implementation of the peace settlement. It shall launch a plan and joint international appeal for the reparation and development of the conflict affected areas in Mindanao. Persons appointed thereto must be familiar with the specific economic, political and legal characteristics in the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan region and must possess recognized competence, integrity, and high moral standing.
12. Cognizant that the Mission will benefit from international expertise, both the Central Government and the BJE hereby join the Third Party facilitator in inviting international funding institutions or equivalent entities for reconstruction and development to appoint two members and to designate one as the Chairman. The BJE shall designate one member as Co-Chairman. The remaining two members shall each be designated by the Central Government and the BJE.

GOVERNANCE

1. The recognition and peaceful resolution of the conflict must involve consultations with the Bangsamoro people free of any imposition in order to provide chances of success and open new formulas that permanently respond to the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people.

2. The ultimate objective of entrenching the Bangsamoro homeland as a territorial space is to secure their identity and posterity, to protect their property rights and resources as well as to establish a system of governance suitable and acceptable to them as a distinct dominant people. The Parties respect the freedom of choice of the indigenous peoples.
3. The Parties agree to invite a multinational third - party to observe and monitor the actual implementation of the comprehensive compact which will embody the details for the effective enforcement of this Agreement. The participation of the third – party shall not in any way affect the status of the relationship between the Central Government and the BJE.
4. The relationship between the Central Government and the BJE shall be associative characterized by shared authority and responsibility with a structure of governance based on executive, legislative, judicial and administrative institutions with defined powers and functions in the Comprehensive Compact. A period of transition shall be established in a Comprehensive Compact specifying the relationship between the Central Government and the BJE.
5. In the context of implementing prior and incremental agreements between the GRP and MILF, it is the joint understanding of the Parties that the term “entrenchment” means, for the purposes of giving effect to this transitory provision, the creation of a process of institution building to exercise shared authority over territory and defined functions of associative character.
6. The modalities for the governance intended to settle the outstanding negotiated political issues are deferred after the signing of the MOA-AD. The establishment of institutions for governance in a Comprehensive Compact, together with its modalities during the transition period, shall be fully entrenched and established in the basic law of the BJE. The Parties shall faithfully comply with their commitment to the associative arrangements upon entry into force of the Comprehensive Compact.
7. The Parties agree that the mechanisms and modalities for the actual implementation of this MOA-AD shall be spelt out in the Comprehensive Compact to mutually take such steps to enable it to occur effectively. Any provisions of the MOA-AD requiring amendments to the existing legal framework shall come into force upon signing of a Comprehensive Compact and upon effecting the necessary changes to the legal framework with due regard to non derogation of prior agreements and within the stipulated timeframe to be contained. In the Comprehensive Compact.

8. The Parties agree that the BJE shall be empowered to build, develop and maintain its own institutions, inclusive of, civil service, electoral, financial and banking, education, legislation, legal, economic, and police and internal security force, judicial system and correctional institutions, necessary for developing a progressive Bangsamoro society, the details of which shall be discussed in the negotiation of the Comprehensive Compact.
9. The Parties further agree to undertake activities which will enhance the capacity of the government institutions during the transition through technical assistance, information-sharing and human resource development.
10. Matters concerning the details of the agreed consensus points on Governance not covered under this Agreement shall be deferred to, and discussed during, the negotiations of the Comprehensive Compact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being the representatives of the Parties hereby affix their signatures.

Done this 5th day of August, 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

FOR THE GRP:

RODOLFO C. GARCIA
Chairman
GRP Peace Negotiating Panel

FOR THE MILF:

MOHAGHER IQBAL
Chairman
MILF Peace Negotiating Panel

WITNESSED BY:

DATUK OTHMAN BIN ABD RAZAK
Special Adviser to the Prime Minister

ENDORSED BY:

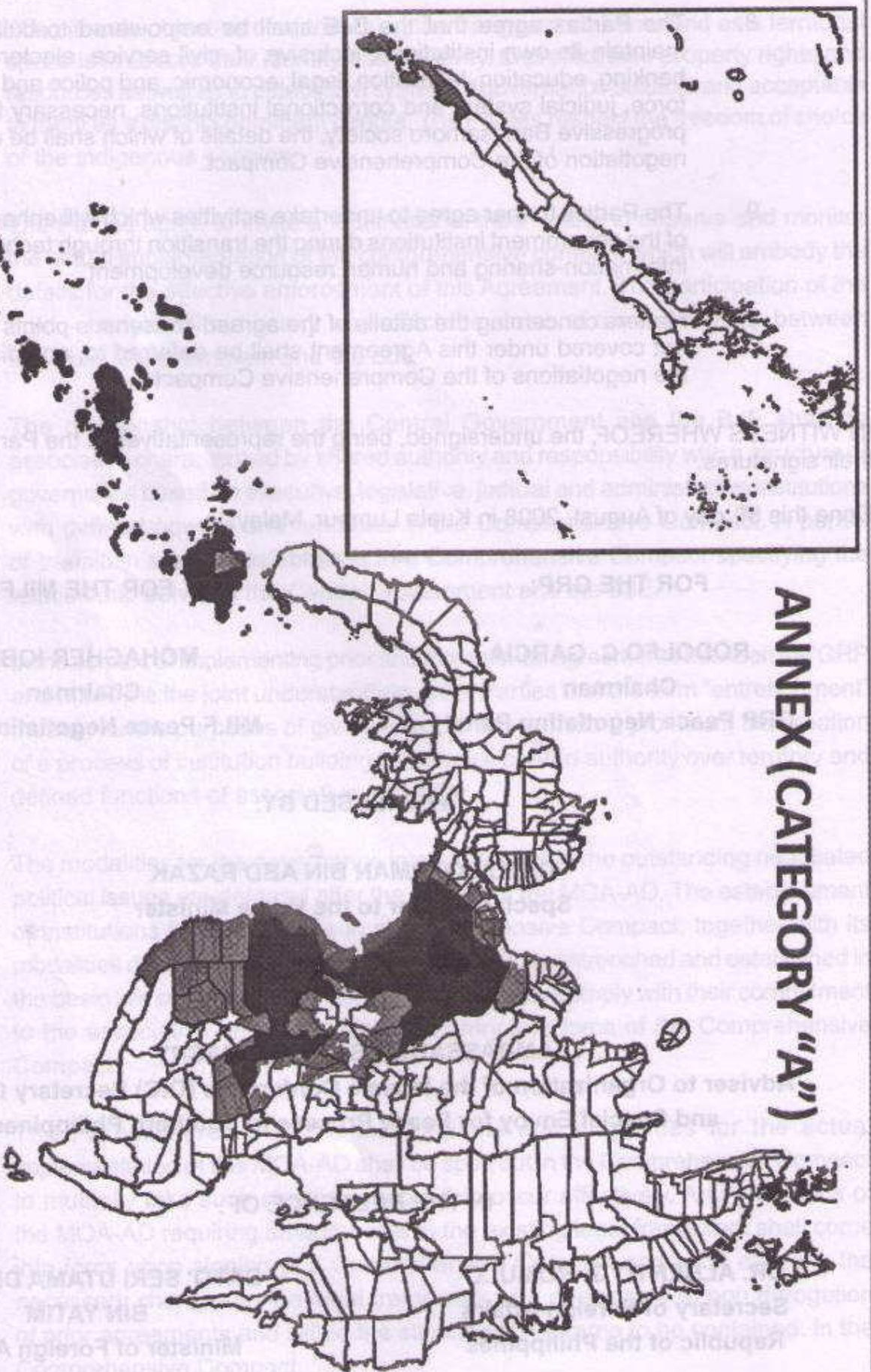
AMBASSADOR SAYED ELMASRY
Adviser to Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General
and Special Envoy for Peace Process in Southern Philippines

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

DR. ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines

DATO' SERI UTAMA DR. RAIS
BIN YATIM
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

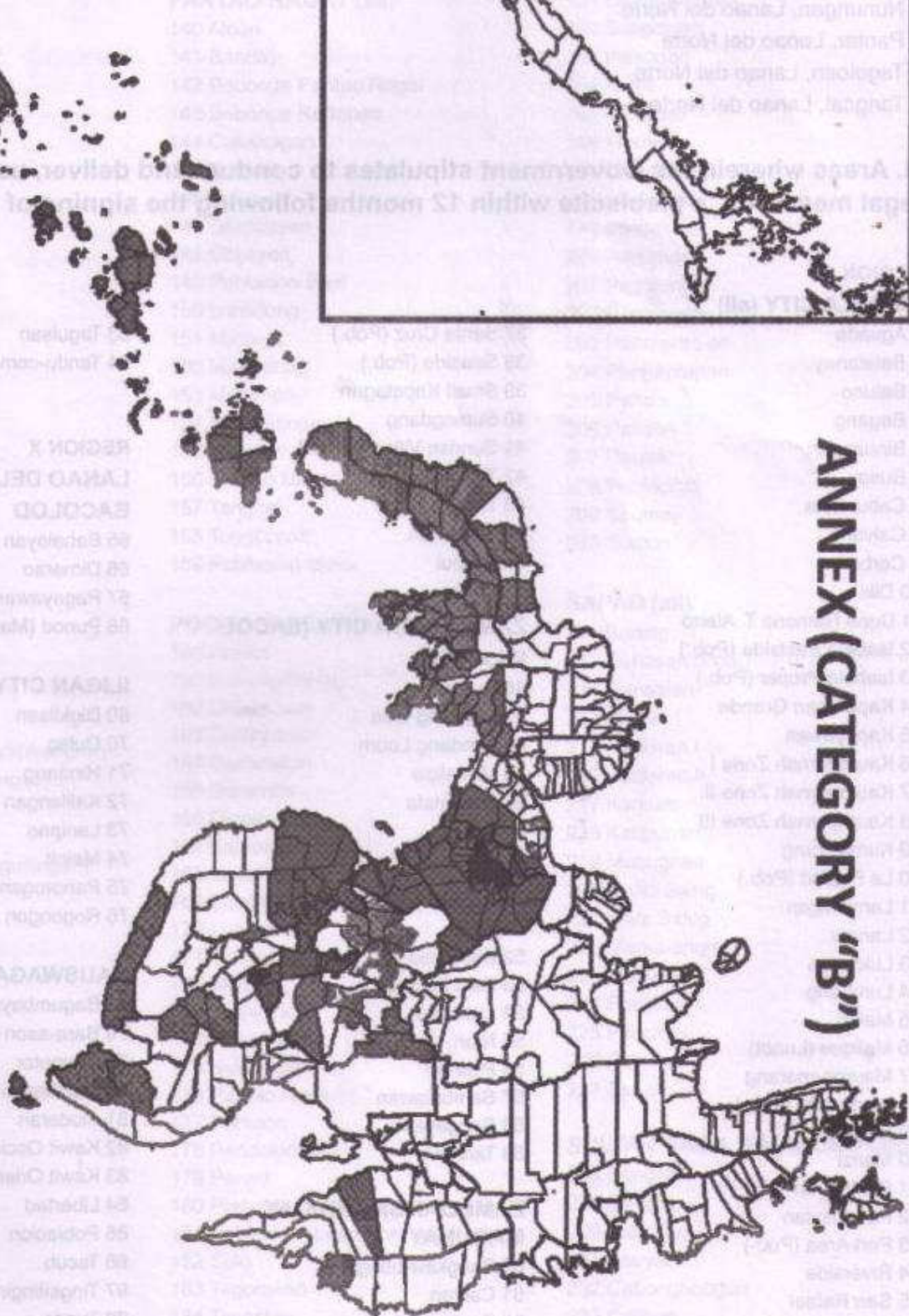
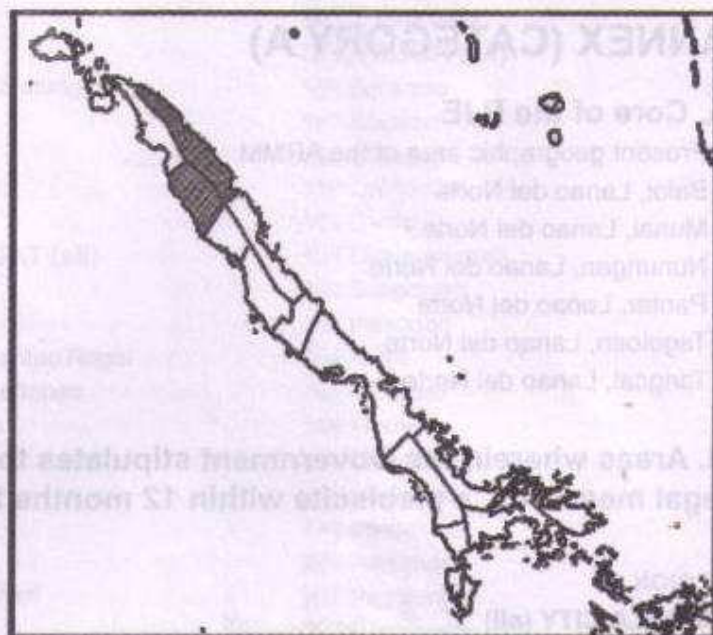
ANNEX (CATEGORY "A")



Legend for Category "A"

- ◆ Core of the BIE
- ◆ Leftmost derogating from the requirements of prior agreements, the government stipulates to conduct and deliver, using all possible legal measures, within twelve (12) months following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD), a prebastic covering the areas as enumerated in the list and depicted in the map as Category A attached herein (the "Annex").

ANNEX (CATEGORY "B")



Legend for Category "B":

Category B (the "Special Intervention Areas") refers to conflict-affected areas outside the BIE which shall be the subject of special socio-economic and cultural affirmative action implemented by the Central Government pending the conduct of a plebiscite shall be conducted not earlier than 25 years from the signing of the Comprehensive Compact to determine the question of their accession to the BIE. The areas reflected are subject to further negotiation by the Parties.

ANNEX (CATEGORY A)

A. Core of the BJE

- 1 Present geographic area of the ARMM
- 2 Baloi, Lanao del Norte
- 3 Munai, Lanao del Norte
- 4 Nunungan, Lanao del Norte
- 5 Pantar, Lanao del Norte
- 6 Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte
- 7 Tangcal, Lanao del Norte

B. Areas wherein the Government stipulates to conduct and deliver, using all possible legal measures, a plebiscite within 12 months following the signing of the MOA-AD

REGION IX

ISABELA CITY (all)

- 1 Aguada
- 2 Balatanay
- 3 Baluno
- 4 Begang
- 5 Binuangan
- 6 Busay
- 7 Cabunbata
- 8 Calvario
- 9 Carbon
- 10 Diki
- 11 Dona Ramona T. Alano
- 12 Isabela Eastside (Pob.)
- 13 Isabela Proper (Pob.)
- 14 Kapatagan Grande
- 15 Kapayawan
- 16 Kaumpurnah Zone I
- 17 Kaumpurnah Zone II
- 18 Kaumpurnah Zone III
- 19 Kumalarang
- 20 La Piedad (Pob.)
- 21 Lampingan
- 22 Lanote
- 23 Lukbuton
- 24 Lumbang
- 25 Makiri
- 26 Maligue (Lunot)
- 27 Marang-marang
- 28 Marketsite (Pob.)
- 29 Masula
- 30 Menzi
- 31 Panigayan
- 32 Panunsulan
- 33 Port Area (Pob.)
- 34 Riverside
- 35 San Rafael
- 36 Santa Barbara

- 37 Santa Cruz (Pob.)
- 38 Seaside (Pob.)
- 39 Small Kapatagan
- 40 Sumagdang
- 41 Sunrise Village (Pob.)
- 42 Tabiawan
- 43 Tabuk (Pob.)
- 44 Tampalan
- 45 Timpul

ZAMBOANGA CITY (SACOL ISLAND)

- 46 Busay
- 47 Landang Gua
- 48 Landang Laum
- 49 Manalipa
- 50 Pasilmata
- 51 Tigtabon

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR DINAS

- 52 Benuatan
- 53 East Migpulao
- 54 Lucoban
- 55 Nian
- 56 Pisa-an
- 57 Sambulawan
- 58 Songayan
- 59 Tarakan

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY MABUHAY

- 60 Bangkaw-bangkaw
- 61 Caliran
- 62 Pamansaan

- 63 Taguisan
- 64 Tandu-comot

REGION X LANAO DEL NORTE BACOLOD

- 65 Babalayan Townsite
- 66 Dimarao
- 67 Pagayawan
- 68 Punod (Maliwanag)

ILIGAN CITY

- 69 Digkilaan
- 70 Dulag
- 71 Hindang
- 72 Kalilangan
- 73 Lanipao
- 74 Mainit
- 75 Panoroganan
- 76 Rogongon

KAUSWAGAN (all)

- 77 Bagumbayan (Pob.)
- 78 Bara-ason
- 79 Cayontor
- 80 Delabayan
- 81 Inudaran
- 82 Kawit Occidental
- 83 Kawit Oriental
- 84 Libertad
- 85 Poblacion
- 86 Tacub
- 87 Tingintingin
- 88 Tugar

KOLAMBUGAN

- 89 Bubong
- 90 Lumbac
- 91 Matampay
- 92 Pagalungan
- 93 Pantaon
- 94 Small Banisilan

LINAMON (all)

- 95 Busque
- 96 Larapan
- 97 Magoong
- 98 Napo
- 99 Poblacion
- 100 Purakan
- 101 Robocan
- 102 Samburon

MAGSAYSAY (all)

- 103 Babasalon
- 104 Baguiguicon
- 105 Daan Campo
- 106 Durianon
- 107 Ilihan
- 108 Lamigadato
- 109 Lemoncret
- 110 Lubo
- 111 Lumbac
- 112 Malabaogan
- 113 Mapantao
- 114 Olango
- 115 Pangao
- 116 Pelingkingan
- 117 Lower Caningag (Perimbangan)
- 118 Poblacion (Bago-A-Ingud)
- 119 Rarab
- 120 Somiorang
- 121 Upper Caningag (Taguiting)
- 122 Talambo
- 123 Tambacon
- 124 Tawinian
- 125 Tipaan
- 126 Tombador

MAIGO

- 127 Inoma

MATUNGAO (all)

- 128 Bubong Radapan
- 129 Bangco
- 130 Batal
- 131 Batangan
- 132 Cadayonan
- 133 Matampay

- 134 Pangi
- 135 Pasayanon
- 136 Poblacion (Matungao)
- 137 Puntod
- 138 Santa Cruz
- 139 Somiorang

PANTAO RAGAT (all)

- 140 Aloon
- 141 Bandy
- 142 Bobonga Pantao Ragat
- 143 Bobonga Radapan
- 144 Cabasagan
- 145 Calawe
- 146 Culubun
- 147 Dilimbayan
- 148 Dimayon
- 149 Poblacion East
- 150 Lomidong
- 151 Madaya
- 152 Maliwanag
- 153 Matampay
- 154 Natangcopan
- 155 Pansor
- 156 Pantao Marug
- 157 Tangcal
- 158 Tongcopan
- 159 Poblacion West

POONA PIAGAPO (all)

- 160 Alowin
- 161 Bubong-Dinalig
- 162 Cabasaran
- 163 Cadayonan
- 164 Caromatan
- 165 Daramba
- 166 Dinalig
- 167 Kablangan
- 168 Linindingan
- 169 Lumbatan
- 170 Lupitan
- 171 Madamba
- 172 Madaya
- 173 Maliwanag
- 174 Nunang
- 175 Nunungan
- 176 Pantao Raya
- 177 Pantaon
- 178 Pendolonan
- 179 Pened
- 180 Piangamangaan
- 181 Poblacion (Lumbacaingud)
- 182 Sulo
- 183 Tagoranao
- 184 Tangclao

- 185 Timbangalan

SALVADOR (all)

- 186 Barandia
- 187 Bulacon
- 188 Buntong
- 189 Calimodan
- 190 Camp III
- 191 Curva-Miagao
- 192 Daligdigan
- 193 Inasagan
- 194 Kilala
- 195 Mabatao
- 196 Madaya
- 197 Mamaanon
- 198 Mapantao
- 199 Mindalano
- 200 Padianan
- 201 Pagalongan
- 202 Pagayawan
- 203 Panaliwad-on
- 204 Pangantapan
- 205 Pansor
- 206 Patidon
- 207 Pawak
- 208 Poblacion
- 209 Saumay
- 210 Sudlon

SAPAD (all)

- 211 Baning
- 212 Buriasan (Pob.)
- 213 Dansalan
- 214 Gamal
- 215 Inudaran I
- 216 Inudaran II
- 217 Karkum
- 218 Katipunan
- 219 Mabugnao
- 220 Maito Salug
- 221 Mala Salug
- 222 Mama-anon
- 223 Mapurog
- 224 Pancilan
- 225 Panoloon
- 226 Pili
- 227 Sapad

SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO (all)

- 228 Bangaan
- 229 Bangco
- 230 Bansarvil II
- 231 Bauyan
- 232 Cabongbongan
- 233 Calibao

234 Calipapa
 235 Calube
 236 Campo Islam
 237 Capocao
 238 Dabliston
 239 Dalama
 240 Dangulaan
 241 Ditago
 242 Ilian
 243 Kauswagan
 244 Kirapan
 245 Koreo
 246 Lantawan
 247 Mabuhay
 248 Maguindanao
 249 Mahayahay
 250 Mamagum
 251 Mina
 252 Pandanan
 253 Payong
 254 Pikalawag
 255 Pikinit
 256 Piraka
 257 Poblacion
 258 Ramin
 259 Rebucon
 260 Sigayan
 261 Sugod
 262 Tagulo
 263 Tantaon
 264 Topocon (Capocgo)

TUBOD

265 Baris (Lumangculob)

BUKIDNON

KALILANGAN

266 Pamotolan

REGION XII

COTABATO CITY (all)

267 Bagua
 268 Bagua I
 269 Bagua II
 270 Bagua III
 271 Kalanganan
 272 Kalanganan I
 273 Kalanganan II
 274 Poblacion
 275 Poblacion I
 276 Poblacion II
 277 Poblacion III
 278 Poblacion IV
 279 Poblacion IX

280 Poblacion V
 281 Poblacion VI
 282 Poblacion VII
 283 Poblacion VIII
 284 Rosary Heights
 285 Rosary Heights I
 286 Rosary Heights II
 287 Rosary Heights III
 288 Rosary Heights IV
 289 Rosary Heights IX
 290 Rosary Heights V
 291 Rosary Heights VI
 292 Rosary Heights VII
 293 Rosary Heights VIII
 294 Rosary Heights X
 295 Rosary Heights XI
 296 Rosary Heights XII
 297 Rosary Heights XIII
 298 Tamontaka
 299 Tamontaka I
 300 Tamontaka II
 301 Tamontaka III
 302 Tamontaka IV
 303 Tamontaka V

COTABATO (North Cotabato)

ALAMADA

304 Dado
 305 Guling
 306 Lower Dado
 307 Macabasa
 308 Mapurok
 309 Pigcawaran

ALEOSAN

310 Dunguan
 311 Lower Mingading
 312 Luanan
 313 Malapang
 314 New Panay
 315 Pagangan
 316 Tapodoc

BANISILAN

317 Gastay
 318 Banisilan Poblacion
 319 Busaon
 320 Capayangan
 321 Carugmanan
 322 Kalawaig
 323 Kiaring
 324 Malinao
 325 Miguel Macasarte
 326 Pantar

327 Paradise
 328 Pinamulaan
 329 Poblacion II
 330 Solama
 331 Thailand
 332 Tinimbacan
 333 Tumbao-Camalig
 334 Wadya

CARMEN

335 Aroman
 336 Cadiis
 337 General Luna
 338 Katanayanan
 339 Kibenenes
 340 Kitulaan
 341 Langogan
 342 Lanoon
 343 Lumayong
 344 Macabenban
 345 Manarapan
 346 Manili
 347 Nasapian
 348 Palanggalaan
 349 Pebpoloan
 350 Tambad
 351 Tupig

KABACAN (all)

352 Aringay
 353 Bangilan
 354 Bannawag
 355 Buluan
 356 Cuyapon
 357 Dagupan
 358 Katidtuan
 359 Kayaga
 360 Kilagasan
 361 Magatos
 362 Malamote
 363 Malanduague
 364 Nanga-an
 365 Osias
 366 Paatan Lower
 367 Paatan Upper
 368 Pedtad
 369 Pisan
 370 Poblacion
 371 Salapungan
 372 Sanggadong
 373 Simbuhay
 374 Simone
 375 Tamped

M'LANG

- 376 Dagong
- 377 Dungo-an
- 378 Gaunan

MATALAM

- 379 Arakan
- 380 Central Malamote
- 381 Ilian
- 382 Kidama
- 383 Kilada
- 384 Manubuan
- 385 Marbel
- 386 Patadon West
- 387 Poblacion
- 388 Taguranao
- 389 Tamped (Tampad)
- 390 New Abra

MIDSAYAP

- 391 Lomopog
- 392 Central Labas
- 393 Damatulan
- 394 Kadigasán
- 395 Kadingilan
- 396 Kapinipilan
- 397 Kudarangan
- 398 Macasendeg
- 399 Malingao
- 400 Mudseng
- 401 Nabalawag
- 402 Nes
- 403 Olandang
- 404 Rangaban
- 405 Salunayan
- 406 Sambulawan
- 407 Tugal
- 408 Tumbras
- 409 Upper Labas

PIGKAWAYAN

- 410 Balacayon
- 411 Banucagon
- 412 Bulucaon
- 413 Buricain
- 414 Central Panaten
- 415 Datu Binasing
- 416 Datu Mantil
- 417 Kadingilan
- 418 Libungan Torreta
- 419 Lower Baguer
- 420 Lower Pangangkalan
- 421 Malagkit
- 422 Matilac
- 423 Midpapan II

- 424 Patot
- 425 Payong-payong
- 426 Simsiman
- 427 Tubon
- 428 Upper Baguer (Baguer)
- 429 Upper Pangangkalan

PIKIT (all)

- 430 Bagoaingud (Bagoinged)
- 431 Balabak
- 432 Balatican
- 433 Balong
- 434 Balungis
- 435 Barungis
- 436 Batulawan
- 437 Bualan
- 438 Buliok
- 439 Bulod
- 440 Bulol
- 441 Calawag
- 442 Dalingaoen (Lalingaon)
- 443 Damalasak
- 444 Fort Pikit
- 445 Ginatilan
- 446 Gligli
- 447 Gokoton (Gokotan)
- 448 Inug-ug
- 449 Kabasalan
- 450 Kalacacan
- 451 Katilacan
- 452 Kolambog
- 453 Ladtingan
- 454 Lagunde
- 455 Langayen
- 456 Macabual
- 457 Macasendeg
- 458 Manaulanan
- 459 Nabundas
- 460 Nalapaan
- 461 Nunguan
- 462 Paidu Pulangi
- 463 Panicupan
- 464 Poblacion
- 465 Punol
- 466 Rajah Muda
- 467 Silik
- 468 Takipan
- 469 Talitay
- 470 Tinutulan
- 471 Pamalian

PRESIDENT ROXAS

- 472 Salat

TULUNAN

- 473 Bacong
- 474 Daig
- 475 Damawato
- 476 Dungos
- 477 Galidan
- 478 Magbok
- 479 Popoyon

**SULTAN KUDARAT
BAGUMBAYAN (all)**

- 480 Bai Sarifinang
- 481 Biwang
- 482 Busok
- 483 Chua
- 484 Daguma
- 485 Daluga
- 486 Kabulanan
- 487 Kanulay
- 488 Kapaya
- 489 Kinayao
- 490 Masiag
- 491 Monteverde
- 492 Poblacion
- 493 Santo Niño
- 494 Sison
- 495 South Sepaka
- 496 Sumilil
- 497 Titulok
- 498 Tuka

COLUMBIO (all)

- 499 Bantangan (Lasak)
- 500 Datablao
- 501 Eday
- 502 Elbebe
- 503 Lasak
- 504 Libertad
- 505 Lomoyon
- 506 Makat (Sumali Pas)
- 507 Maligaya
- 508 Mayo
- 509 Natividad
- 510 Poblacion
- 511 Polomolok
- 512 Sinapulan
- 513 Sucob
- 514 Telafas

ESPERANZA (all)

- 515 Ala
- 516 Daladap
- 517 Dukay
- 518 Guiamalia

519 Ilian
520 Kangkong
521 Margues
522 New Panay
523 Numo
524 Pamantingan
525 Poblacion
526 Sagasa
527 Salabaca
528 Villamor
529 Laguinding
530 Magsaysay
531 Paitan
532 Saliao
533 Salumping

ISULAN

534 Bual
535 Lagandang
536 Laguilaan

KALAMANSIG (all)

537 Bantogon (Santa Clara)
538 Cadiz
539 Datu Ito Andong
540 Datu Wasay
541 Dumangas Nuevo
542 Hinalaan
543 Limulan
544 Nalilidan
545 Obial
546 Pag-asa
547 Paril
548 Poblacion
549 Sabanal
550 Sangay
551 Santa Maria

LAMBAYONG (all)

552 Caridad (Cuyapon)
553 Dittaras
554 Gansing (Bilumen)
555 Kabulakan
556 Kapingkong
557 Katitisan
558 Lagao
559 Lilit
560 Madanding
561 Maligaya
562 Mamali
563 Matiompong
564 Midtapok
565 New Cebu
566 Palumbi

567 Pidtiguian
568 Pimbalayan
569 Pinguaman
570 Poblacion (Lambayong)
571 Sadsalan
572 Seneben
573 Sigayan
574 Tambak
575 Tinumigues
576 Tumiao (Tinaga)
577 Udtong

LEBAK (all)

578 Barurao
579 Barurao II
580 Basak
581 Bolebok
582 Bululawan
583 Capilan
584 Christiannuevo
585 Datu Karon
586 Kalamongog
587 Keytodac
588 Kinodalan
589 New Calinog
590 Nuling
591 Pansud
592 Pasandalan
593 Poblacion
594 Poblacion II
595 Poblacion III
596 Poloy-poloy
597 Purikay
598 Ragandang
599 Salaman
600 Salangsang
601 Taguisa
602 Tibpuan
603 Tran
604 Villamonte

LUTAYAN (all)

605 Antong
606 Bayasong
607 Blingkong
608 Lutayan Proper
609 Maingang
610 Mamali
611 Manili
612 Sampao
613 Sisiman
614 Tamnag (Pob.)
615 Palavilla

PALIMBANG (all)

616 Akol
617 Badiangon
618 Baliango
619 Balwan (Bulan)
620 Bambanen
621 Baranayan
622 Barongis
623 Batang-baglas
624 Butril
625 Colobe
626 Domolol
627 Kabuling
628 Kalibuhan
629 Kanipaan
630 Kidayan
631 Kiponget
632 Kisek
633 Kraan
634 Kulong-kulong
635 Langali
636 Libua
637 Ligao
638 Lopoken (Lepolon)
639 Lumitan
640 Maganao
641 Maguid
642 Malatuneng (Malatunol)
643 Malisbong
644 Medol
645 Milbuk
646 Mina
647 Molon
648 Namat Masla
649 Napnapon
650 Poblacion
651 San Roque
652 Tibuhol (East Badiangon)
653 Wal
654 Wasag

PRESIDENT QUIRINO (all)

655 Bagumbayan
656 Bannawag
657 Bayawa
658 C. Mangilala
659 Estrella
660 Kalanawe I
661 Kalanawe II
662 Katico
663 Malingon
664 Mangalen
665 Pedtubo
666 Poblacion (Sambulawan)

667 Romualdez
668 San Jose
669 San Pedro (Tuato)
670 Sinakulay
671 Suben
672 Tinaungan
673 Tual (Liguasan)

SEN. NINOY AQUINO (all)

674 Banali
675 Basag
676 Buenaflor
677 Bugso
678 Buklod
679 Gapok
680 Kadi
681 Kapatagan
682 Kiadsam
683 Kuden
684 Kulaman
685 Lagubang
686 Langgal
687 Limuhay
688 Malegdeg
689 Midtungok
690 Nati

691 Sewod
692 Tacupis
693 Tinalon

PALAWAN

BALABAC (all)

694 Agutayan
695 Bugsuk (New Cagayancillo)
696 Bancalaan
697 Indalawan
698 Catagupan
699 Malaking Ilog
700 Mangsee
701 Melville
702 Pandanan
703 Pasig
704 Rabor
705 Ramos
706 Salang
707 Sebaring
708 Poblacion I
709 Poblacion II
710 Poblacion III
711 Poblacion IV
712 Poblacion V
713 Poblacion VI

BATARAZA (all)

714 Bono-bono
715 Bulalacao
716 Bulluyan
717 Culandanum
718 Igang-igang
719 Inogbong
720 Iwahig
721 Malihud
722 Malitub
723 Marangas (Pob.)
724 Ocayan
725 Puring
726 Rio Tuba
727 Sandoval
728 Sapa
729 Sarong
730 Sumbiling
731 Tabud
732 Tagnato
733 Tagolango
734 Taratak
735 Tarusan

* Including all inland bodies of water found therein

** (List of names based on 2000 Census)

xxx end of list xxx

LIGUGAN (all)

LANAN (all)

LANAN (all)

LANAN (all)

LANAN (all)

LANAN (all)

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LANAN (all)

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LANAN (all)

ANNEX (CATEGORY "B")

Category B (the "Special Intervention Areas") refers to conflict affected areas outside the BJE which shall be the subject of special socio-economic and cultural affirmative action implemented by the Central Government pending the conduct of a plebiscite not earlier than twenty-five (25) years from the signing of the Comprehensive Compact to determine the question of their accession to the BJE. The areas reflected are subject to further negotiations by the Parties.

COTABATO (NORTH COTABATO)

ALAMADA

- 1 Bao
- 2 Barangiran
- 3 Camansi
- 4 Kitacubong (Pob.)
- 5 Malitubog
- 6 Mirasol
- 7 Pacao
- 8 Paruayan
- 9 Polayagan
- 10 Rangayen
- 11 Raradangan

CARMEN

- 12 Bentangan
- 13 Kibugtongan
- 14 Kilala
- 15 Kimadzil
- 16 Liliongan
- 17 Malapag
- 18 Poblacion
- 19 Ranzo
- 20 Tacupan
- 21 Tonganon

LIBUNGAN (all)

- 22 Abaga
- 23 Baguer
- 24 Barongis
- 25 Batiocan
- 26 Cabaruyan
- 27 Cabpangi
- 28 Demapaco
- 29 Grebona
- 30 Gumaga
- 31 Kapayawi
- 32 Kiloyao
- 33 Kitubod
- 34 Malengen
- 35 Montay
- 36 Nica-an
- 37 Palao
- 38 Poblacion

- 39 Sinapangan
- 40 Sinawingan
- 41 Ulamian

MAKILALA (all)

- 42 Batasan
- 43 Bato
- 44 Biangan
- 45 Buena Vida
- 46 Buhay
- 47 Bulakanon
- 48 Cabilao
- 49 Concepcion
- 50 Dagupan
- 51 Garsika
- 52 Guangan
- 53 Indangan
- 54 Jose Rizal
- 55 Katipunan II
- 56 Kawayanon
- 57 Kisante
- 58 Leboce
- 59 Libertad
- 60 Luayon
- 61 Luna Norte
- 62 Luna Sur
- 63 Malabuan
- 64 Malasila
- 65 Malungon
- 66 New Baguio
- 67 New Bulatukan
- 68 New Cebu
- 69 New Israel
- 70 Old Bulatukan
- 71 Poblacion
- 72 Rodero
- 73 Saguig
- 74 San Vicente
- 75 Santa Felomina
- 76 Santo Niño
- 77 Sinkatulan
- 78 Taluntalunan
- 79 Villaflares

MATALAM

- 80 Bangbang
- 81 Bato
- 82 Dalapitan
- 83 Estado
- 84 Kabulacan
- 85 Kibia
- 86 Kibudoc
- 87 Lampayan
- 88 Latagan
- 89 Linao
- 90 Lower Malamote
- 91 Manupal
- 92 Minamaing
- 93 Natutungan
- 94 New Alimodian
- 95 New Bugasong
- 96 New Pandan
- 97 Pinamaton
- 98 Salvacion
- 99 Santa Maria
- 100 Sarayan
- 101 Taculen

MIDSAYAP

- 102 Agriculture
- 103 Anonang
- 104 Arizona
- 105 Bagumba
- 106 Baliki
- 107 Barangay Poblacion 1
- 108 Barangay Poblacion 2
- 109 Barangay Poblacion 3
- 110 Barangay Poblacion 4
- 111 Barangay Poblacion 5
- 112 Barangay Poblacion 6
- 113 Barangay Poblacion 7
- 114 Barangay Poblacion 8
- 115 Bitoka
- 116 Bual Norte
- 117 Bual Sur
- 118 Bulanan Upper
- 119 Central Bulanan
- 120 Central Glad
- 121 Central Katingawan

122 Ilbocean
123 Kimagango
124 Kiwanan
125 Lagumbingan
126 Lower Glad
127 Lower Katingawan
128 Malamote
129 Milaya
130 Nalin
131 Palongoguen
132 Patindeguen
133 Sadaan
134 Salunayan
135 San Isidro
136 Santa Cruz
137 Upper Glad I
138 Upper Glad II
139 Villarica

M'LANG

140 Bagontapay
141 Bialong
142 Buayan
143 Calunasan
144 Dalipe
145 Inas
146 Katipunan
147 La Fortuna
148 La Suerte
149 Langkong
150 Lepaga
151 Liboo
152 Lika
153 Luz Village
154 Magallon
155 Malayan
156 New Antique
157 New Barbaza
158 New Consolacion
159 New Esperanza
160 New Janiuay
161 New Kalibo
162 New Lawa-an
163 New Rizal
164 Nueva Vida
165 Pag-asa
166 Palma-Perez
167 Poblacion
168 Poblacion B
169 Pulang-lupa
170 Sangat
171 Tawantawan
172 Tibao
173 Ugpay

PIGKAWAYAN

174 Anick (Upper Balogo)

175 Balogo
176 Buluan
177 Cabpangi
178 Capayuran
179 Central Panatan
180 Kimarayang
181 Malagakit
182 Maluao
183 Midpapan I
184 Midpapan II
185 Mulok
186 New Culasi
187 New Igbaras
188 New Panay
189 North Manuangan
190 Poblacion I
191 Poblacion II
192 Poblacion III
193 Presbitero
194 Renibon
195 South Manuangan
196 Tigbawan
197 Tubon

PRESIDENT ROXAS

198 Alegria
199 Bato-bato
200 Cabangbangan
201 Camasi
202 Datu Indang
203 Datu Sandongan
204 Del Carmen
205 F. Cajelo (New Maasin)
206 Greenhill
207 Idaoman
208 Ilustre
209 Kamarahan
210 Kimaruhing
211 Kisupaan
212 La Esperanza
213 Labu-o
214 Lamalama
215 Lomonay
216 Mabuhay
217 New Cebu
218 Poblacion
219 Sagcungan
220 Sarayan
221 Tual

BANISILAN

222 Malagap
223 Puting-bato

ALEOSAN

224 Bagolibas
225 Cawilihan

226 Dualing
227 Katalicanan
228 Lawili
229 New Leon
230 Palacat
231 Pentil
232 San Mateo
233 Santa Cruz
234 Tomado
235 Upper Mingading

ARAKAN

236 Allab
237 Anapolon
238 Badiangon
239 Binoongan
240 Dallag
241 Datu Ladayon
242 Datu Matangkil
243 Doroluman
244 Gambodes
245 Ganatan
246 Kabalantian
247 Katipunan
248 Kinawayan
249 Kulaman Valley
250 Lanao Kuran
251 Libertad
252 Makalangot
253 Malibatuan
254 Maria Caridad
255 Meocan
256 Naje
257 Napalico
258 Poblacion (Greenfield)
259 Salasang
260 San Miguel
261 Santo Niño
262 Sumalili
263 Tumanding

LANAO DEL NORTE BACOLOD

264 Alegria
265 Babalaya
266 Binuni
267 Demologan
268 Esperanza
269 Kahayag
270 Liangan East
271 Mati
272 Minaulon
273 Poblacion Bacolod
274 Rupagan

SULTAN KUDARAT ISULAN

- 275 Bambad
- 276 Dansuli
- 277 D'Lotilla
- 278 Impao
- 279 Kalawag I (Pob.)
- 280 Kalawag II (Pob.)
- 281 Kalawag III (Pob.)
- 282 Kenram
- 283 Kolambog
- 284 Kudanding
- 285 Mapantig
- 286 New Pangasinan
- 287 Sampao
- 288 Tayugo

SOUTH COTABATO POLOMOLOK (all)

- 289 Bentung
- 290 Cannery Site
- 291 Crossing Palkan
- 292 Glamang
- 293 Kinilis
- 294 Klinan 6
- 295 Koronadal Proper
- 296 Lam-Caliag
- 297 Landan
- 298 Lapu
- 299 Lumakil
- 300 Magsaysay
- 301 Maligo
- 302 Pagalungan
- 303 Palkan
- 304 Poblacion
- 305 Polo
- 306 Rubber
- 307 Silway 7
- 308 Silway 8
- 309 Sulit
- 310 Sumbakil
- 311 Upper Klinan

TAMPAKAN (all)

- 312 Albagan
- 313 Buto
- 314 Danlag
- 315 Kipalbig
- 316 Lambayong
- 317 Lampitak
- 318 Liberty
- 319 Maltana
- 320 Palo
- 321 Poblacion

- 322 Pula-bato
- 323 San Isidro
- 324 Tablu

TUPI (all)

- 325 Acmonan
- 326 Bololmala
- 327 Bunao
- 328 Cebuano
- 329 Crossing Rubber
- 330 Kablon
- 331 Kalkam
- 332 Linan
- 333 Lunen
- 334 Miasong
- 335 Palian
- 336 Poblacion
- 337 Polonuling
- 338 Simbo
- 339 Tubeng

SARANGANI

GLAN (all)

- 340 Baliton
- 341 Batotuling
- 342 Batulaki
- 343 Big Margus
- 344 Burias
- 345 Cablalan
- 346 Calabanit
- 347 Calpidong
- 348 Congan
- 349 Cross
- 350 Datalbukay
- 351 E. Alegado
- 352 Glan Padidu
- 353 Gumasa
- 354 Ilaya
- 355 Kaltuad
- 356 Kapatan
- 357 Lago
- 358 Laguimit
- 359 Mudan
- 360 New Aklan
- 361 Pangyan
- 362 Poblacion
- 363 Rio Del Pilar
- 364 San Jose
- 365 San Vicente
- 366 Small Margus
- 367 Sufatubo
- 368 Taluya
- 369 Tango
- 370 Tapon

KIAMBA (all)

- 371 Badtasan
- 372 Datu Dani
- 373 Gasi
- 374 Kapate
- 375 Katubao
- 376 Kayupo
- 377 Kling (Lumit)
- 378 Lagundi
- 379 Lebe
- 380 Lomuyon
- 381 Luma
- 382 Maligang
- 383 Nalus
- 384 Poblacion
- 385 Salakit
- 386 Suli
- 387 Tablao
- 388 Tamadang
- 389 Tambillil

MAASIM (all)

- 390 Amsipit
- 391 Bales
- 392 Colon
- 393 Daliao
- 394 Kabatiol
- 395 Kablacan
- 396 Kamanga
- 397 Kanalo
- 398 Lumasal
- 399 Lumatil
- 400 Malbang
- 401 Nomoh
- 402 Pananag
- 403 Poblacion (Maasim)
- 404 Seven Hills
- 405 Tinoto

MAITUM (all)

- 406 Bati-an
- 407 Kalaneg
- 408 Kalaong
- 409 Kiambing
- 410 Kiayap
- 411 Mabay
- 412 Maguling
- 413 Malalag (Pob.)
- 414 Mindupok
- 415 New La Union
- 416 Old Poblacion (Maitum)
- 417 Pangi (Liniao)
- 418 Pinol
- 419 Sison (Edenton)

420 Ticulab
421 Tuanadatu
422 Upo (Lanao)
423 Wali (Kambuhan)
424 Zion

MALAPATAN (all)

425 Daan Suyan
426 Kihan
427 Kinam
428 Libi
429 Lun Masla
430 Lun Padidu
431 Patag
432 Poblacion (Malapatan)
433 Sapu Masla
434 Sapu Padidu
435 Tuyan
436 Upper Suyan

DAVAO DEL SUR

SARANGANI (all)

437 Batuganding
438 Camahual
439 Camalig
440 Gomtago
441 Konel
442 Laker (Sarangani Sur)
443 Lipol
444 Mabila (Pob.)
445 Patuco (Sarangani Norte)
446 Tagen
447 Tinina
448 Tual

DAVAO ORIENTAL

TARRAGONA (all)

449 Cabagayan
450 Central (Pob.)
451 Dadong
452 Jovellar
453 Limot
454 Lucatan
455 Maganda
456 Ompao
457 Tomoaong
458 Tubaon

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

PANTUKAN (all)

459 Araibo
460 Bongabong
461 Bongbong
462 Kingking (Pob.)

463 Las Arenas
464 Magnaga
465 Matiao
466 Napnapan
467 P. Fuentes
468 Tagdangua
469 Tag-Ugpo
470 Tambongon
471 Tibagon

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

BALIGUIAN (all)

472 Alegria
473 Diangas
474 Diculom
475 Guimotan
476 Kauswagan
477 Kilalaban
478 Linay
479 Lumay
480 Malinao
481 Mamad
482 Mamawan
483 Milidan
484 Nonoyan
485 Poblacion
486 San Jose
487 Tamao
488 Tan-awan

GODOD (all)

489 Baluno
490 Banuangan
491 Bunawan
492 Dilucot
493 Dipopor
494 Guisapong
495 Limbonga (Limboangan)
496 Lomogom
497 Mauswagon
498 Miampic
499 Poblacion
500 Raba
501 Rambon
502 San Pedro
503 Sarawagan
504 Sianan
505 Sioran

KALAWIT (all)

506 Batayan
507 Botong
508 Concepcion
509 Daniel Maing (Dominolog)

510 Fatima (Lacsutan)
511 Gatas
512 Kalawit (Pob.)
513 Marcelo
514 New Calamba
515 Palalian
516 Paraiso
517 Pianon
518 San Jose
519 Tugop*

LABASON (all)

520 Antonino (Pob.)
521 Balas
522 Bobongan
523 Dansalan
524 Gabu
525 Gil Sanchez
526 Imelda
527 Immaculada
528 Kipit
529 La Union
530 Lapatan
531 Lawagan
532 Lawigan
533 Lopoc (Pob.)
534 Malintubon
535 New Salvacion
536 Osukan
537 Patawag
538 San Isidro
539 Ubay

SALUG (all)

540 Bacong
541 Balakan
542 Binoni
543 Calucap
544 Canawan
545 Caracol
546 Danao
547 Dinoan
548 Dipolod
549 Fatima (Pogan)
550 Ipilan
551 Lanawan
552 Liguac
553 Lipakan
554 Mucas
556 Pacuhan
557 Poblacion (Salug)
558 Poblacion East
559 Pukay
560 Ramon Magsaysay

561 Santo Niño
562 Tambalang
563 Tapalan

SIBUCO (all)

564 Anongan
565 Basak
566 Bongalao
567 Cabbunan
568 Cawit-cawit
569 Culaguan
570 Cusipan
571 Dinulan
572 Jatian
573 Kamarangan
574 Lakiki
575 Lambagoan
576 Limpapa
577 Lingayon
578 Lintangan
579 Litawan
580 Lunday
581 Malayal
582 Mantivo
583 Nala (Pob.)
584 Panganuran
585 Pangian
586 Paniran
587 Pasinahut
588 Poblacion
589 Puliran
590 Santo Niño (Culabog)
591 Tangarak

SIOCON (all)

592 Andres Micubo Jr. (Bailli)
593 Balagunan
594 Bucana
595 Bulacan
596 Candiz
597 Datu Sailila
598 Dionisio Riconalla
599 Jose P. Brillantes, Sr. (Old Lituban)
600 Latabon
601 Makiang
602 Malambuhangin
603 Malipot
604 Manaol
605 Mateo Francisco
606 Matig
607 New Lituban
608 Pangian
609 Pisawak
610 Poblacion (Siocon)
611 S. Cabral

612 Santa Maria
613 Siay
614 Suhaile Arabi
615 Tabayo
616 Tagaytay
617 Tibangao

SIRAWAI (all)

618 Balatakan
619 Balonkan
620 Balubuan
621 Bitugan
622 Bongon
623 Catuyan
624 Culasian
625 Danganon
626 Doña Cecilia
627 Guban
628 Lagundi
629 Libucon
630 Lubok
631 Macuyon
632 Minanga
633 Motong
634 Napulan
635 Panabutan
636 Piacan
637 Piña
638 Pisa Itom
639 Pisa Puti
640 Pugos
641 Pula Bato
642 Pulang Lupa
643 Saint Mary (Pob.)
644 San Nicolas (Pob.)
645 San Roque (Pob.)
646 San Vicente (Pob.)
647 Sipakit
648 Sipawa
649 Sirawai Proper (Pob.)
650 Talabiga
651 Tapanayan

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

ALICIA (all)

652 Alegria
653 Bagong Buhay
654 Bella
655 Calades
656 Concepcion
657 Dawa-dawa
658 Gulayon
659 Ilisan
660 Kapatagan

661 Kauswagan
662 Kawayan
663 La Paz
664 Lambuyogan
665 Lapidawan
666 Litayan
667 Lutiman
668 Milagrosa (Baluno)
669 Naga-naga
670 Pandan-pandan
671 Payongan
672 Poblacion
673 Santa Maria
674 Santo Niño
675 Talaptap
676 Tampalan
677 Tandiong Muslim
678 Timbang-timbang

BUUG (all)

679 Agutayan
680 Bagong Borbon
681 Basalem
682 Bawang
683 Bliss
684 Bulaan
685 Compostela
686 Danluran
687 Datu Panas
688 Del Monte
689 Guintuloan
690 Guitom
691 Guminta
692 Labrador
693 Lantawan
694 Mabuhay
695 Maganay
696 Manlin
697 Muyo
698 Pamintayan
699 Pling
700 Poblacion
701 Pulog
702 San Jose
703 Talairan
704 Talamimi
705 Villacastor (Galit)

IPIL (all)

706 Bacalan
707 Bangkerohan
708 Bulu-an
709 Caparan
710 Domandan
711 Don Andres
712 Doña Josefa

713 Guituan
714 Ipil Heights
715 Labi
716 Logan
717 Lower Ipil Heights
718 Lower Taway
719 Lumbia
720 Maasin
721 Magdaup
722 Makilas
723 Pangi
724 Poblacion
725 Sanito
726 Suclema
727 Taway
728 Tenan
729 Tiayon
730 Timalang
731 Tomitom
732 Upper Pangi
733 Veteran's Village (Ruiz)

MABUHAY

734 Abunda
735 Bagong Silang
736 Catipan
737 Kauswagan
738 Ligaya
739 Looc-Barlak
740 Malinao
741 Pinalim (San Roque)
742 Poblacion
743 Punawan
744 Santo Niño (Caliran)
745 Sawa
746 Sioton

MALANGAS (all)

747 Bacao
748 Basak-bawang
749 Bontong
750 Camanga
751 Candiis
752 Catituan
753 Dansulao
754 Del Pilar
755 Kigay
756 La Dicha
757 Lipacan
758 Logpond
759 Mabini
760 Malungon
761 Mulom
762 Overland

763 Palalian
764 Payag
765 Poblacion
766 Rebocon
767 San Vicente
768 Sinusayan
769 Tackling
770 Tigabon
771 Guilawa

OLUTANGA (all)

772 Bateria
773 Calais (Kalines)
774 Esperanza
775 Fama
776 Galas
777 Gandaan
778 Kahayagan
779 Looc Sapi
780 Matim
781 Noque
782 Pulo Laum
783 Pulo Mabao
784 San Isidro
785 San Jose
786 Santa Maria
787 Solar (Pob.)
788 Tambanan
789 Villacorte
790 Villagonzalo

SIAY (all)

791 Bagong Silang
792 Balagon
793 Balingasan
794 Balucanian
795 Bataan
796 Batu
797 Buyogan
798 Camanga
799 Coloran
800 Kimos (Kima)
801 Labasan
802 Lagting
803 Laih
804 Logpond
805 Magsaysay
806 Mahayahay
807 Maligaya
808 Maniha
809 Minsulao
810 Mirangan
811 Monching
812 Paruk

793 Poblacion
794 Princesa Sumama
795 Salinding
796 San Isidro
797 Sibuguey
798 Siloh
799 Villagracia

TUNGAWAN (all)

800 Baluran
801 Batungan
802 Cayamcam
803 Datu Tumanggong
804 Gaycon
805 Langon
806 Libertad (Pob.)
807 Linguisan
808 Little Margos
809 Loboc
810 Looc-labuan
811 Lower Tungawan
812 Malungon
813 Masao
814 San Isidro
815 San Pedro
816 San Vicente
817 Santo Niño
818 Sisay
819 Taglibas
820 Tigbanuang
821 Tigbucay
822 Tigpalay
823 Timbabauan
824 Upper Tungawan

TALUSAN (all)

825 Aurora
826 Baganipay
827 Bolingan
828 Bualan
829 Cawilan
830 Florida
831 Kasigpitan
832 Laparay
833 Mahayahay
834 Moalboal
835 Poblacion (Talusán)
836 Sagay
837 Samonte
838 Tuburan

PAYAO (all)

839 Balian
840 Balogo
841 Balungisan

842 Binangonan
843 Bulacan
844 Bulawan
845 Calape
846 Dalama
847 Fatima (Silal)
848 Guintolan
849 Guiwan
850 Katipunan
851 Kima
852 Kulasian
853 Kulisap
854 La Fortuna
855 Labatan
856 Mayabo (Santa Maria)
857 Minundas (Santo. Niño)
858 Mountain View (Puluan)
859 Nanan
860 Poblacion (Payao)
861 San Isidro
862 San Roque
863 San Vicente (Binangonan)
864 Silal
865 Sumilong
866 Talaptap
867 Upper Sumilong

IMELDA (all)

868 Balugo
869 Balungisan
870 Baluyan
871 Cana-an
872 Dumpoc
873 Gandiangan
874 Israel (Balian Israel)
875 La Victoria
876 Little Baguio
877 Lower Baluran
878 Lumbog
879 Lumpanac
880 Mali Little Baguio
881 Poblacion (Santa Fe)
882 Pulawan (Mt. View)
883 San Jose
884 Santa Barbara
885 Upper Baluran

DIPLAHAN (all)

886 Balangao
887 Butong
888 Ditay
889 Gaulan
890 Goling
891 Guinoman

892 Kauswagan
893 Lindang
894 Lobing
895 Luop
896 Manangon
897 Mejo
898 Natan
899 Paradise
900 Pilar
901 Poblacion (Diplahan)
902 Sampoli A
903 Sampoli B
904 Santa Cruz
905 Songcuya
906 Tinongtongan
907 Tuno

TITAY (all)

908 Achasol
909 Azusano
910 Bangco
911 Camanga
912 Culasian
913 Dalangin
914 Dalangin Muslim
915 Dalisay
916 Gomotoc
917 Imelda (Upper Camanga)
918 Kipit
919 Kitabog
920 La Libertad
921 Longilog
922 Mabini
923 Malagandis
924 Mate
925 Moalboal
926 Namnama
927 New Canaan
928 Palomoc
929 Poblacion (Titay)
930 Poblacion Muslim
931 Pulidan
932 San Antonio
933 Santa Fe
934 Supit
935 Tugop
936 Tugop Muslim

ROSELLER LIM (all)

937 Ali Alsree
938 Balansag
939 Calula
940 Casacon
941 Don Perfecto

942 Gango
943 Katipunan
944 Kulambugan
945 Mabini
946 Magsaysay
947 Malubal
948 New Antique
949 New Sagay
950 Palmera
951 Pres. Roxas
952 Remedios
953 San Antonio
954 San Bernardino
955 San Jose
956 Santo Rosario
957 Siawang
958 Silingan
959 Surabaya
960 Taruc
961 Tilasan
962 Tupilac

NAGA (all)

963 Aguinaldo
964 Baga
965 Baluno
966 Bangkaw-bangkaw
967 Cabong
968 Crossing Sta. Clara
969 Gubawang
970 Guintoloan
971 Kaliantana
972 La Paz
973 Lower Sulitan
974 Mamagon
975 Marsolo
976 Poblacion
977 San Isidro
978 Sandayong
979 Santa Clara
980 Sulo
981 Tambanan
982 Taytay Manubo
983 Tilubog
984 Tipan
985 Upper Sulitan

KABASALAN (all)

986 Banker
987 Bolo Battalion
988 Buayan
989 Cainglet
990 Calapan
991 Calubihan

992 Concepcion (Balungis)
 993 Diampak
 994 Dipala
 995 Gacbusan
 996 Goodyear
 997 Lacnapan
 998 Little Baguio
 999 Lumbayao
 1000 Nazareth
 1001 Palinta
 1002 Peñaranda
 1003 Poblacion
 1004 Riverside
 1005 Sanghanan
 1006 Santa Cruz
 1007 Sayao
 1008 Shiolan
 1009 Simbol
 1010 Sininan
 1011 Tamin
 1012 Tampilisan
 1013 Tigbangagan
 1014 Timuay Danda (Mangahas)

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

AURORA (all)

1015 Acad
 1016 Alang-alang
 1017 Alegria
 1018 Anonang
 1019 Bagong Mandaue
 1020 Bagong Maslog
 1021 Bagong Oslob
 1022 Bagong Pitogo
 1023 Baki
 1024 Balas
 1025 Balide
 1026 Balintawak
 1027 Bayabas
 1028 Bemposa
 1029 Cabilinan
 1030 Campo Uno
 1031 Ceboneg
 1032 Commonwealth
 1033 Gubaan
 1034 Inasagan
 1035 Inroad
 1036 Kahayagan East (Katipunan)
 1037 Kahayagan West
 1038 Kauswagan
 1039 La Paz (Tinibtiban)
 1040 La Victoria
 1041 Lantungan
 1042 Libertad
 1043 Lintugop

1044 Lubid
 1045 Maguikay
 1046 Mahayahay
 1047 Monte Alegre
 1048 Montela
 1049 Napo
 1050 Panaghiusa
 1051 Poblacion
 1052 Resthouse
 1053 Romarate
 1054 San Jose
 1055 San Juan
 1056 Sapa Loboc
 1057 Tagulalo
 1058 Waterfall

DIMATALING (all)

1059 Bacayawan
 1060 Baha
 1061 Balanagan
 1062 Baluno
 1063 Binuay
 1064 Buburay
 1065 Grap
 1066 Josefina
 1067 Kagawasan
 1068 Lalab
 1069 Libertad
 1070 Magahis
 1071 Mahayag
 1072 Mercedes
 1073 Poblacion
 1074 Saloagan
 1075 San Roque
 1076 Sugbay Uno
 1077 Sumbato
 1078 Sumpot
 1079 Tinggabungong
 1080 Tiniguangan
 1081 Tipangi
 1082 Upper Ludiong

DINAS

1083 Bacawan
 1084 Beray
 1085 Don Jose
 1086 Dongos
 1087 Guinicolalay
 1088 Ignacio Garrata (New Mirapao)
 1089 Kinacap
 1090 Legarda 1
 1091 Legarda 2
 1092 Legarda 3
 1093 Lower Dimaya

1094 Ludiong
 1095 Nangka
 1096 Old Mirapao
 1097 Poblacion
 1098 Proper Dimaya
 1099 Sagacad
 1100 San Isidro
 1101 Sumpotan
 1102 Upper Dimaya
 1103 Upper Sibul
 1104 West Migpulao

DUMALINAO (all)

1105 Anonang
 1106 Baga
 1108 Bag-ong Misamis
 1109 Bag-ong Silao
 1110 Baloboan
 1112 Banta-ao
 1113 Bibilik
 1114 Calingayan
 1115 Camalig
 1116 Camanga
 1117 Cuatro-cuatro
 1118 Locuban
 1119 Malasik
 1120 Mama (San Juan)
 1121 Matab-ang
 1122 Mecolong
 1123 Metokong
 1124 Motosawa
 1125 Pag-asa (Pob.)
 1126 Paglaum (Pob.)
 1127 Pantad
 1128 Piniglibano
 1129 Rebokon
 1130 San Agustin
 1131 Sibucan
 1132 Sumadat
 1133 Tikwas
 1134 Tina
 1135 Tubo-Pait
 1136 Upper Dumaliniao

KUMALARANG (all)

1137 Bogayo
 1138 Bolisong
 1139 Boyugan East
 1140 Boyugan West
 1141 Bualan
 1142 Diplo
 1143 Gawil
 1144 Gusom
 1145 Kitaan Dagat

1146 Lantawan
1147 Limamawan
1148 Mahayahay
1149 Pangi
1150 Picanan
1151 Poblacion
1152 Salagmanok
1153 Secade
1154 Suminalum

LABANGAN (all)

1155 Bagalupa
1156 Balimbingan (West Luya)
1157 Binayan
1158 Bokong
1159 Bulanit
1160 Cogonan
1161 Combo
1162 Dalapang
1163 Dimasangca
1164 Dipaya
1165 Langapod
1166 Lantian
1167 Lower Campo Islam (Pob.)
1168 Lower Pulacan
1169 Lower Sang-an
1170 New Labangan
1171 Noboran
1172 Old Labangan
1173 San Isidro
1174 Santa Cruz
1175 Tapodoc
1176 Tawagan Norte
1177 Upper Campo Islam (Pob.)
1178 Upper Pulacan
1179 Upper Sang-an

LAPUYAN (all)

1180 Bulawan
1181 Carpoc
1182 Danganan
1183 Dansal
1184 Dumara
1185 Linokmadalum
1186 Luanan
1187 Lubusan
1188 Mahalingeb
1189 Mandeg
1190 Maralag
1191 Maruing
1192 Molum
1193 Pampang
1194 Pantad
1195 Pingalay

1196 Poblacion
1197 Salambuyan
1198 San Jose
1199 Sayog
1200 Tabon
1201 Talabab
1202 Tiguha
1203 Tininghalang
1204 Tipasan
1205 Tugaya

MARGOSATUBIG (all)

1206 Balintawak
1207 Bularong
1208 Digon
1209 Guinimanan
1210 Igat Island
1211 Josefina
1212 Kalian
1213 Kolot
1214 Limabatong
1215 Limamawan
1216 Lumbog
1217 Magahis
1218 Poblacion
1219 Sagua
1220 Talanusa
1221 Tiguan
1222 Tulapoc

PAGADIAN CITY (all)

1223 Alegria
1224 Balangasan (Pob.)
1225 Balintawak
1226 Baloyboan
1227 Banale
1228 Bogo
1229 Bomba
1230 Buenavista
1231 Bulatok
1232 Bulawan
1233 Dampalan
1234 Danluga
1235 Dao
1236 Datagan
1237 Deborok
1238 Ditoray
1239 Dumagoc
1240 Gatas (Pob.)
1241 Gubac
1242 Gubang
1243 Kagawasan
1244 Kahayagan
1245 Kalasan
1246 Kawit
1247 La Suerte
1248 Lala
1249 Lapidian

1250 Lenienza
1251 Lizon Valley
1252 Lourdes
1253 Lower Sibatang
1254 Lumad
1255 Lumbia
1256 Macasing
1257 Manga
1258 Muricay
1259 Napolan
1260 Palpalan
1261 Pedulonon
1262 Poloyagan
1263 San Francisco (Pob.)
1264 San Jose (Pob.)
1265 San Pedro (Pob.)
1266 Santa Lucia (Pob.)
1267 Santa Maria
1268 Santiago (Pob.)
1269 Santo Niño
1270 Tawagan Sur
1271 Tiguma
1272 Tuburan (Pob.)
1273 Tulangan
1274 Tulawas
1275 Upper Sibatang
1276 White Beach

SAN PABLO (all)

1277 Bag-ong Misamis
1278 Bubual
1279 Buton
1280 Culasian
1281 Daplayan
1282 Kalilangan
1283 Kapamanok
1284 Kondum
1285 Lumbayao
1286 Mabuhay
1287 Marcos Village
1288 Miasin
1289 Molansong
1290 Pantad
1291 Pao
1292 Payag
1293 Poblacion (San Pablo)
1294 Pongapong
1295 Sacbulan
1296 Sagasan
1297 San Juan
1298 Senior
1299 Songgoy
1300 Tandubay
1301 Taniapan
1302 Ticala Island
1303 Tubo-pait
1304 Villakapa

TABINA (all)

1305 Abong-abong
 1306 Baganian
 1307 Baya-baya
 1308 Capisan
 1309 Concepcion
 1310 Culabay
 1311 Doña Josefina
 1312 Lumbia
 1313 Mabuhay
 1314 Malim
 1315 Manikaan
 1316 New Oroquieta
 1317 Poblacion
 1318 San Francisco
 1319 Tultolan

TUKURAN (all)

1320 Alindahaw
 1321 Baclay
 1322 Balimbingan
 1323 Buenasuerte
 1324 Camanga
 1325 Curvada
 1326 Laperian
 1327 Libertad
 1328 Lower Bayao
 1329 Luy-a
 1330 Manilan
 1331 Manlayag
 1332 Militar
 1333 Navalán
 1334 Panduma Senior
 1335 Sambulawan
 1336 San Antonio
 1337 San Carlos (Pob.)
 1338 Santo Niño (Pob.)
 1339 Santo Rosario
 1340 Sugod
 1341 Tabuan
 1342 Tagulo
 1343 Tinotungan
 1344 Upper Bayao

PITOGO (all)

1345 Balabawan
 1346 Balong-balong
 1347 Colojo
 1348 Liasan
 1349 Liguac
 1350 Limbayan
 1351 Lower Paniki-an
 1352 Matin-ao
 1353 Panubigan
 1354 Poblacion (Pitogo)
 1355 Punta Flecha
 1356 San Isidro
 1357 Sugbay Dos

1358 Tongao
 1359 Upper Paniki-an

VINCENZO A. SAGUN (all)

1360 Ambulon
 1361 Bui-os
 1362 Cogon
 1363 Danan
 1364 Kabatan
 1365 Kapatagan
 1366 Limason
 1367 Linoguyan
 1368 Lumbal
 1369 Lunib
 1370 Maculay
 1371 Maraya
 1372 Sagucan
 1373 Waling-waling

GUIPOS (all)

1374 Bagong Oroquieta
 1375 Baguitan
 1376 Balongating
 1377 Canunan
 1378 Dacsoi
 1379 Dagohoy
 1380 Dalapang
 1381 Datagan
 1382 Guling
 1383 Katipunan
 1384 Lintum
 1385 Litan
 1386 Magting
 1387 Poblacion (Guipos)
 1388 Regla
 1389 Sikatuna
 1390 Singclot

ZAMBOANGA CITY

1391 Ayala
 1392 Baluno
 1393 Bolong
 1394 Buenavista
 1395 Calabasa
 1396 Campo Islam
 1397 Cawit
 1398 Curuan
 1399 Dita
 1400 Dulian (Upper Bunguiao)
 1401 La Paz
 1402 Labuan
 1403 Latuan (Curuan)
 1404 Locomo
 1405 Limaong
 1406 Limpapa
 1407 Maasin
 1408 Malagutay
 1409 Mangusu
 1410 Manicahan

1411 Mariki
 1412 Muti
 1413 Pamucutan
 1414 Panubigan
 1415 Patalon
 1416 Quiniput
 1417 Recodo
 1418 Sibulao (Caruan)
 1419 Sinubung
 1420 Sinunoc
 1421 Tagasilay
 1422 Taguiti
 1423 Talisayan
 1424 Talon-talon
 1425 Tictapul
 1426 Tigbalabag
 1427 Tulungatung
 1428 Tumitus
 1429 Victoria
 1430 Vitali

PALAWAN**BROOKE'S POINT (all)**

1431 Tubtub
 1432 Amas
 1433 Aribungos
 1434 Barong-barong
 1435 Calasaguen
 1436 Imulnod
 1437 Ipilan
 1438 Maasin
 1439 Mainit
 1440 Malis
 1441 Mambalot
 1442 Oring-orong
 1443 Pangobilian
 1444 Poblacion I
 1445 Poblacion II
 1446 Salogon
 1447 Samareñana
 1448 Saraza

RIZAL (all)

1449 Bunog
 1450 Campong Ulay
 1451 Candawaga
 1452 Canipaan
 1453 Culasian
 1454 Iraan
 1455 Latud
 1456 Panalingaan
 1457 Punta Baja
 1458 Ransang
 1459 Taburi

xxx end of list xxx

Community kitchens benefit children of the flooded South Upi villages

Children from the villages in South Upi, Maguindanao affected by the flood brought by typhoon Frank have benefitted from the feeding program implemented by the Kadtuntaya Foundation, Inc. (KFI) with support from the Germany-based Stiftung fuer Kinder (Foundation for Children) conducted on August 21-23, 2008.

A total of 2, 196 elementary and pre-school pupils were served through the community kitchen installed in 5 strategic areas.



BREAK TIME. *These elementary pupils enjoy their free meal at the comfort of their own classroom during their recess.*



EATING OUT. *In another community kitchen, pre-schoolers have their hearty meal under the shades of a partially ruined house (left) and under the tree (right).*

Of the flooded villages in South Upi due to typhoon Frank, Kuya is the most affected being the catch basin of Matuber, Rifao and Tran Rivers. The nearby Inros creek have also widened due to heavy rains and coursed through the Kuya, Cocob and Sinako.

It was 2 o'clock in the morning of August 21 when flood swept through the households in the communities near the riverbanks. In Sitio Ilac, 8 houses are ruined while 19 houses are partially damaged. Officials of Barangay Kuya reported 10 people missing and only 4 bodies were recovered after the search and rescue operation. Also in Barangay Kuya, 6 houses are destroyed and 40 more were either partially buried or slightly damaged.



THE AFTER SCENE. *The residents, along with some local officials, look at what remains of their neighborhood after being ravaged by flood.*

The flood washed away rice and corn crops in both areas. Some of the residents lost their farm animals.

The local government unit (both municipal and barangay level) passed a resolution to appropriate a calamity fund to respond to the

basic needs of the affected families. Some international non-government organizations also responded by providing relief goods to the flood victims.

Local residents suspect that the small mining and logging operations in the nearby areas are among the contributing factors to the calamity.

The newly repaired roads to connecting the the barangays of Awang in Datu Odin Sinsuat town and the municipality of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat was again impassable due to a landslide in an area in Barangay Kuya.

Kuya is one of the barangays of South Upi in the Province of Maguindanao in the Autonomous

Region in Muslim Mindanao. It has a total land area of 4,500 square hectares with 837 households (Census, 2000) with an estimated population of 2,500. It is located between the towns of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat and South Upi, Maguindanao.

The village got its name from the Maguindanaon word "kuya" which means "race." The early inhabitants frequently used to hold track and field events in this place, thus the name "kuya."

Kuya has been a recipient of developmental projects of both local and foreign institutions. Unlike its neighboring barangays, Kuya has an elementary school, a private high school and a day care center.

New Project

School for Samal children in Pagadian



A teacher facilitates her class as she would on every school day -- using Samal dialect as means for instruction.



Discussing matters regarding the new project were (left to right): Pressia Arifin-Cabo, Stiftung fuer Kinder Exec. Director Atty. Ekkehard Arnsperger, Dr. Wolfram Deissler and Thomas Varadi of Stiftung fuer Kinder, and Mohaiya Pua.

Stiftung fuer Kinder's (Foundation for Children) is funding a new school project in Pagadian City benefitting some Samal children. In an aim to draw in more children to continue their studies, the Stiftung fuer Kinder is offering a free meal to the students on every school day.

Presently, two regular teachers are serving the 20 students. The project is being supervised by Mohaiya Pua – who works for Lumah ma Dilaut, a network member of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS).



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With assistance from **Stiftung für Kinder**, a foundation in Germany that supports children from the countries in the Third World.



**Stiftung
für Kinder**